

# REPORT

on the 4th Africa Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory  
Humanitarian Action – Systems building:  
supporting effective anticipatory action in Africa

29 June - 1 July 2021

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## Acronyms and abbreviations

AATF	anticipatory action task force	FEWS NET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
ARC	African Risk Capacity	H.E.	His Excellency / Her Excellency
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund	IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
COVID-19	coronavirus	M&E	monitoring and evaluation
DREF	Disaster Risk Emergency Fund	OCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
DRM	disaster risk management	REAP	Risk-informed Early Action Partnership
DRR	disaster risk reduction	UN	United Nations
EWEA	early warning early action	UNDRR	UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	WFP	World Food Programme
FbF	forecast-based financing		

# The 4th Africa Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action

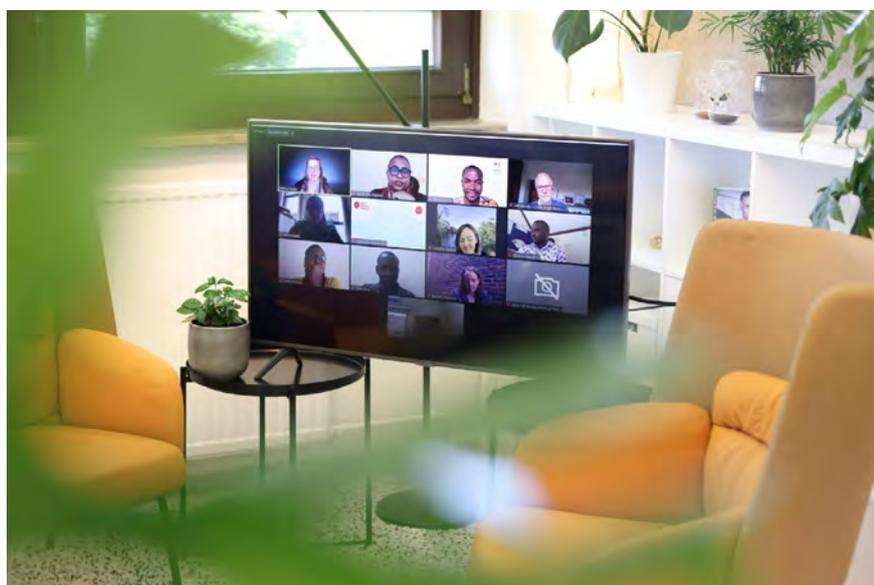
→ The 4th Africa Dialogue Platform took place as a virtual event from the 29 June to the 1 July, 2021, bringing together people from all over Africa and the rest of the world. The platform was established to connect experts, professionals, donors and others in order to enable the exchange of knowledge and to find new ideas regarding anticipatory action. This year's theme was 'Systems building: supporting effective anticipatory action in Africa' – a topic that is more important than ever before.

The three-day conference ensured that theoretical and practical knowledge was exchanged, networks were strengthened, and there was great collaboration across numerous sessions and working groups that provided abundant insights and a new cohesion among the participants.

The 4th Africa Dialogue Platform was organized by the Anticipation Hub and hosted by the German Red Cross and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and the Start Network. It was possible thanks to the financial support of the German Federal Foreign Office.

This reporting is based partly on the live blog for this event which can be read here: <https://events.anticipation-hub.org/africa/>

The event platform was actively used by **310 participants** who came from **51 different countries**



4th Africa Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory  
Humanitarian Action – Systems building:  
supporting effective anticipatory action in Africa

# DAY ONE

# Greetings from Africa

Several video messages, with greetings from all over Africa, were shown at the start. **Irene Amuron**, anticipatory action programme manager at the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, sent greetings from Uganda and gave insights into what the virtual dialogue platform would have in store, for example how everyone could better support each other: “There are new faces, new stories, and we all can find out together how we can make anticipatory action bigger, better, and cover more people. It is going to be epic!”

“Greetings from Nairobi and a warm welcome to the Africa Dialogue Platform,” said **Cyril Ferrand**, resilience team leader for FAO Eastern Africa. However, first he wanted to thank the IFRC: “For the lead role they have been playing for a long time now on issues related to climate adaptation, to early warning, to early action to, now, anticipatory action.” He explained that we are living in a world where social, economic and/or climate shocks are becoming the new normal. This makes it crucial to review our business models and ecosystems, and take a critical look at how we work together - or how we should work together. He emphasized the word 'dialogue' in the Africa Dialogue Platform, and that this implies discussing with each other, learning from each other, and sharing views, opinions and good practices: “This is imperative to reduce the suffering of people on the continent. We want to deliver faster, better, and save money, save lives and save livelihoods. I am happy and proud to be part of this: to find solutions together that will become imperative and fundamental for the decade to come.”

In her opening words, **Phoebe Shikuku**, disaster risk reduction (DRR) and forecast-based financing (FbF) advisor for the IFRC, emphasized how happy and excited she was to have everyone at the table to discuss African matters with African stakeholders. In the last few months, Africa had faced so many disasters ranging from floods, drought, conflicts, pandemics and more – how can communities be supported to anticipate, prepare and respond to these disasters in better ways? “Our system is ready.



Maybe? Or maybe not?” she asked, describing the intention of the Africa Dialogue Platform: “Three days with different panelists, different speakers, with very beautiful and interactive sessions for us to discuss these matters. The theme of this year’s conference is systems building and supporting effective implementation of anticipatory humanitarian action.”

**Gernot Laganda**, director of climate change and DRR at WFP, explained that the theme of the Africa Dialogue Platform has never been as important: “Humanitarian needs are rising faster today than ever before, and climate extremes are clashing with several other crises like COVID-19, conflicts or economic disruptions. The demand for humanitarian financing is escalating.” Last year, climate extremes were the dominant driver for acute hunger in 15 countries, forcing over 30 million into displacement. Yet, while humanitarian aid can stabilize situations, it should always be the last resort, used when other options have failed: “We need to deliver services to protect lives, and these services are the ones that will get delivered through the systems you will be discussing over the next three days. The conversation here is truly important.”

# Opening ceremony

**Phoebe Shikuku** started the opening ceremony together with **Sergio Innocente**. The conference opened with a poem by **Roan Okong'o**.

## DROUGHT AMONGST THE RAIN

This is our present not our past  
And things are changing rapidly not even fast  
These are the times of hunger and times of thirst  
This land of sweeping plains is facing the normal in  
a strange way  
It'll rain tomorrow if not today  
We always say  
Then we wait, but nothing, it doesn't even rain late.  
The planted are not growing, it's just pain  
We've got drought amongst the rain.  
Two o'clock, two o'clock always found me walking  
But now  
It finds the sun scorching  
I can't survive twenty minutes of talking  
Under it  
Everything is different it's all becoming intense  
Hunger against families with no defense  
Knowledge against teens with no reference  
And most of my folks don't even understand the scene  
They just see bodies of their keen  
They watch as yellow turns up from what was once  
green.  
So for our sake and yours, we need to do more  
For momentary moments make monumental change  
Every drip drop makes a difference because we  
can be that change.

Because it's no rain reigning over rain  
And they don't know what to do  
For them there's no number two  
But we know they do.  
Crops crying for just a drop  
The air is hot and hearts are cold  
I don't think there's much of this they can hold  
So unpredictable are the skies  
It's like the clouds are always telling lies  
Like they are about to cry  
But nothing, it all comes down to clear nights.  
So maybe I didn't mean to rhyme but I know we've  
got enemies to fight.  
So if we're planning for a lifetime let's educate them  
Am sure they'll do the same  
And then the knowledge will gain fame  
And the wild situation will be tamed.  
We don't want to sit and watch everything tumble  
Families and children crumble  
We don't need more of the samples  
Struggle for progress not perfection  
It'll count anyway if we have the intention,  
The change is us, we are the change.

By Roan Okong'o,  
St Joseph's High School, Kitale, Kenya



### Speakers:

**Phoebe Shikuku**  
DRR and FbF advisor, IFRC

**Sergio Innocente**  
Early warning early action,  
preparedness and response advisor,  
FAO sub-regional office for East Africa

**Florine Clomegah**  
Deputy regional director, IFRC

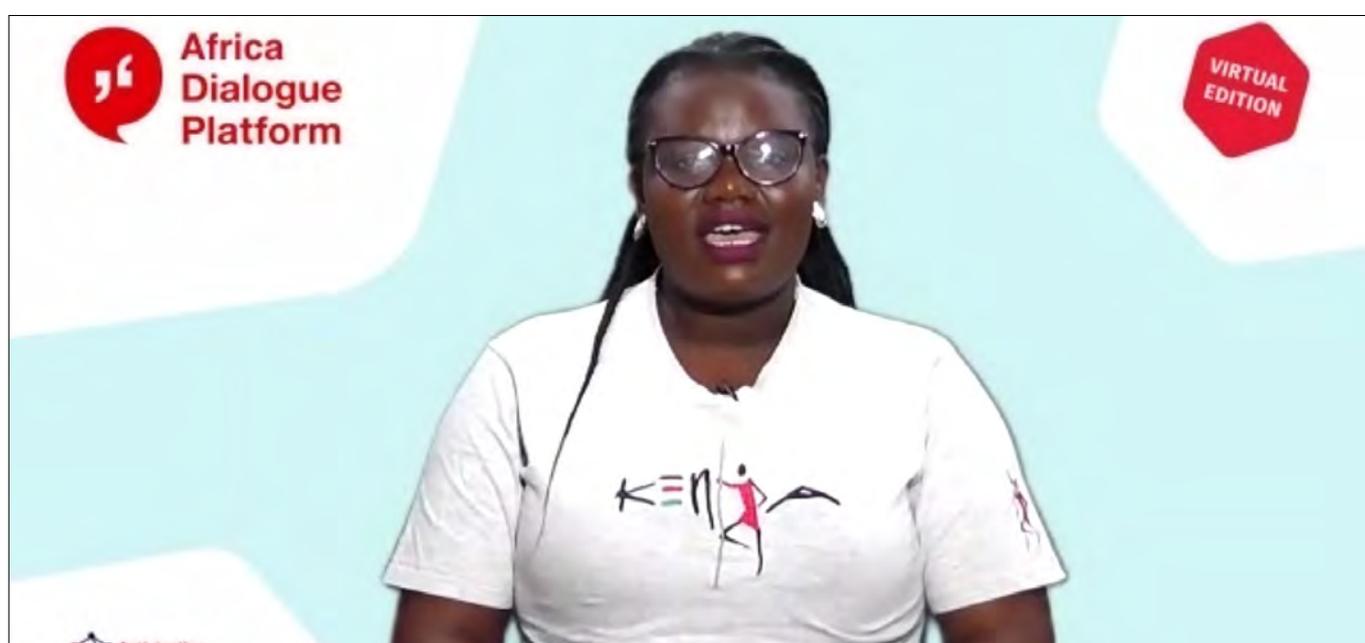
**Roan Okong'o**  
St. Joseph's High School,  
Kitale, Kenya

**Cyril Ferrand**  
Resilience team leader,  
FAO Eastern Africa

**Christof Johnen**  
Head of international  
cooperation, German Red Cross

“Poetry is a way of getting into the hearts and minds of people and to deliver messages for change which are enjoyable and understandable at the same time,” explained Phoebe Shikuku. Thus, a poem was the best possible kick-off for the Africa Dialogue Platform.

The poem was followed by opening words from three experts. **Florine Clomegah** explained that this was the second time the platform had been held virtually because of the pandemic – which is good for reducing carbon footprints and for reaching a wider audience, but is a reminder that vaccines and health protocols are still a hot issue. Several, often overlapping, catastrophes had struck Africa in recent months, and communities have had to mitigate and adapt to climate change, as she emphasized: “We need to support our communities to be able to anticipate, prepare and respond not only to weather and climate events, but also to events like disease, conflict and pest.”



The forecast-based financing approach is an innovative way of anticipating humanitarian crises in order to enable early action and to reduce the impacts on those communities most vulnerable to shocks. Several countries, such as Mozambique, show progress, but she emphasized that still more must be done: “We have learnt great lessons and seen the significant impact of anticipatory humanitarian action from the pilot stages. We need to scale up to implementation phases. This will only be possible if we ensure that systems are in place within our organizations, governments, academic institutions and communities to ensure that a conducive environment has been created to support the effective implementation of anticipatory action in the various levels and contexts.” The 4th Africa Dialogue Platform provided a forum for crucial stakeholders to engage in dialogue on these issues. She explained that the IFRC is proud to be part of the effort of this knowledge exchange, which will strengthen the connection between the humanitarian and development agendas.

“The conference is timely and necessary,” emphasized **Cyril Ferrand**, “because we need to take stock of where we stand and where we want to go. We must strengthen partnerships to overcome the challenges that lie ahead.” He remarked that food security in Africa is worsening, partly because of COVID-19, with 25 million more people being threatened than in the year before. Africa is still the continent most affected by food crises, but great progress has also been made: “We have made progress in our approach, where we are less reactive today compared to the past; we are better in anticipating shocks and protecting people – but still, we are not yet there. We need stronger commitments from governments, partners and donors to scale up our work on anticipatory action.” Anticipating shocks before they reach their peak is more effective than waiting to rebuild everything afterwards: “Protecting people and their livelihoods means protecting their lives and ultimately their dignity.” Data collection and early warning systems can help here, he explained, and the shift in thinking from managing disaster response to managing disaster risk is fundamental, as this shift makes people resilient to shock. “Anticipatory action has to be a goal we share across all sectors,” he explained. “We have to engage communities, civil societies and the private sector in meaningful ways on this journey. Above all, we need to support governments in building the systems and plan to react earlier.” Strong partnerships are crucial here – and events like the 4th Africa Dialogue Platform help to strengthen them.

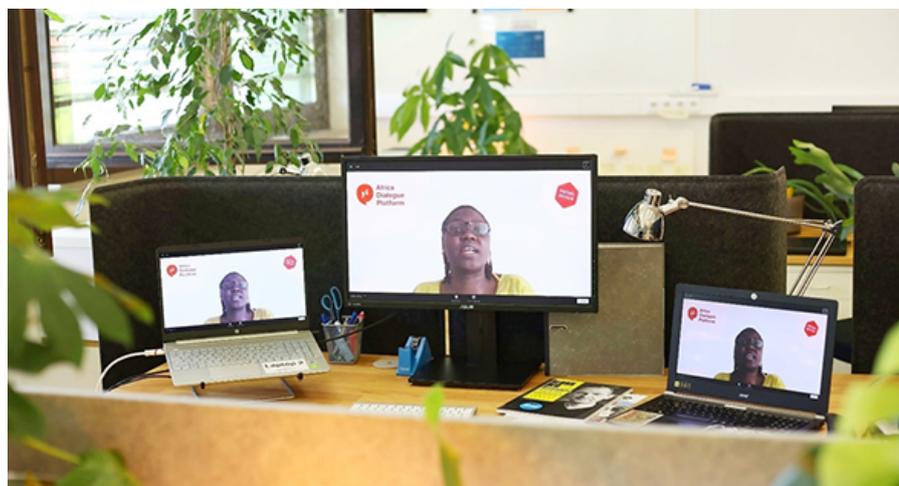
**Christof Johnen** talked about the advantages of the virtual edition, such as having more participants and especially more diverse participants. In the last seven years, the German Federal Foreign Office has supported this work and enabled the German Red Cross and its partners to develop anticipatory humanitarian action, especially in some African countries: “We want to achieve a paradigm shift in supporting communities to anticipate, prepare and respond to disasters before they happen, thus reducing the loss of human lives, reducing suffering and building up resilience – that is the core of our mandate and a priority of our work.” He emphasized the huge progress already made in Africa, which shows the need for and importance of anticipatory humanitarian work, but also the capacities and great work of the national organizations such as the Mozambique Red Cross Society. The Africa Dialogue Platform was there to join forces to discuss the way forward and scaling up: “We are now moving the focus to expand to other hazards - from floods to droughts and now moving into anticipating non-weather hazards such as locusts and pandemics – and always adapting the protocols. The challenge of compounding risks, of several hazards coinciding and their impacts multiplying, will remain with us in the coming years, and it has been a huge challenge in the past year.” Dialogues and initiatives on all levels will help here, as will moving closer to scientific communities: “We have to put things into practice, and we have to bring things to scale – but this cannot happen at the global level alone, making the regional platforms so important.”

# Keynote speech:

## Humanitarian-development perspective

Different contexts require different perspectives, and thus the speakers of the first keynote speech presented theirs. **Marie-May Esparon** highlighted experiences of the impact of the changing climate in Seychelles, where local communities are eager to protect the environment: “Seychelles is one of the leading Small Island States on the forefront of the fight against climate change, where it is spearheading the Blue Economy and Blue Bond Concept. It has adopted climate change policies, roadmaps and strategies integrating risks within the social and economic development sectors, putting emphasis on community engagement and participation in the protection of livelihoods.” She raised the big question of what needs to be done by humanitarian and development partners to achieve the goal of supporting the effective implementation of anticipatory action in Africa.

**H.E. Ole Thonke** emphasized the need to better prevent food insecurity so as to assist people in need at the right time: “We need to be better at predicting the future so as to prevent and anticipate emergencies. In the search for solutions we should leverage technology and the involvement of local communities, and foster closer collaboration so that we can go from short- to medium- and long-term thinking among all humanitarian and development partners.”



Also important is the better optimization of resources, taking into account the frequency of changing weather patterns, gender issues, technological developments, community involvement, closer collaborations, and medium and long-term thinking among all humanitarian and development partners in anticipatory action.



### Speakers:

#### **Marie-May Esparon**

Secretary general,  
Red Cross Society of Seychelles,

#### **H.E. Ole Thonke**

Ambassador, Royal Danish  
Embassy in Nairobi

#### **Irene Amuron**

Anticipatory action programme  
manager, Red Cross  
Red Crescent Climate Centre



We need to build capacities to ensure that science translates into information that is understandable and actionable. Anticipatory action requires all of us and should be integrated across the short and longer timescales, translated from global to local levels.

Irene Amuron, anticipatory action  
programme manager, Red Cross  
Red Crescent Climate Centre



# Keynote speech:

## Is it my business?

Is climate change my business? How does the private sector in East Africa respond to climate challenges? Those were key questions in **Gerald Masila's** speech. He explained that the Eastern Africa Grain Council is a membership organization for farmers, traders and processors in the grain value chain. It creates an enabling environment through advice and support on trade, policy and capacity building related to grain and cereal commodities.

He further explained the impacts of climate change. Its impacts include sporadic rainfall, drought and an increase in pests and diseases, which affect both the quality and size of agricultural products. To mitigate this, the Eastern Africa Grain Council gathers 'climate information for grains' from various sources and shares these 'advisories' to farmer hubs, including actions that farmers can take to mitigate the expected impacts. In addition, it is developing new climate-smart technologies, including new drying techniques that enable a longer shelf life, as well as storage methods that keep grains and cereals airtight, thereby reducing losses to locusts and other pests.



### Speaker:

**Gerald Masila**

Executive director and  
chief executive officer,  
Eastern Africa Grain Council

# Parallel sessions #1

The parallel sessions on day 1 and day 2 dealt with specific topics in smaller groups. Practical approaches and theoretical knowledge could thus be combined. In addition, the sessions helped to make the discussions and the dialogue even more lively and, above all, they focused on the opinions and ideas of the participants. In this way, these sessions helped to make the Africa Dialogue Platform more successful and enabled the participants to share their ideas.

## Getting the impact data right for anticipatory action: challenges and opportunities for regional collaboration?

In this session, speakers presented their approaches to collect and validate data on the impact of disasters. This data is crucial for anticipatory humanitarian action when forecasting the impact of disasters or defining triggers. Impact data is sourced at various levels and ranges, from local to national to global levels, using local government archives, newspaper articles or international organizations. There was clear agreement that the validation of data is also crucial to be able to use and publish these databases and to adjust datasets to country and local contexts.

**The Risk Data Library**

Vulnerability data  
Exposure data  
Hazard data  
Risk data

Tools and standard to “package” disaster risk data for easier storage, discovery, sharing, re-use and comparison



### Speakers:

**Marc van den Homberg**  
Scientific lead, Netherlands  
Red Cross 510 data team

**Lydia Cumiskey**  
Partnerships consultant,  
Anticipation Hub

**Debarati Guha Sapir**  
Professor, Centre for Research  
on the Epidemiology of  
Disasters/University of Louvain

**Pierre Chrzanowski**  
Disaster risk management  
specialist, Global Facility for  
Disaster Reduction and Recovery

**Katarina Soltesova**  
Programme officer - risk  
knowledge, Regional Office  
for Africa, UN Office for Disaster  
Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

**Rahul Sengupta**  
Programme management officer  
- risk knowledge, Monitoring and  
Capacity Development Branch,  
UNDRR

## Solving the Puzzle (of disaster risk information)

*"Support an effort to develop standards to support disaster risk reduction and management"*



### Risk Models

Although there are a variety of models available, they can be difficult to use without expertise and require hazard, exposure, and vulnerability data that are difficult to find



### Risk Data

Risk assessments require multiple types of data, yet data can be expensive, scattered, hard to access, and difficult to obtain



### Risk Platforms

Risk platforms facilitate risk assessments by offering tools to analyze risk data and model results, but they tend to lack interoperability among the models, ease of use, and broad community acceptance



### Capacity Building

For risk assessments to be effective, the results need to be trusted, understood, communicated, and acted upon by decision makers. Further understanding of the end user's needs is required

**Pierre Chrzanowski** talked about solving the puzzle of disaster risk information: "Issues were divided into risk models, risk data, risk platform and capacity building as a support to efforts to develop standards for disaster risk reduction and management." One key element is crucial here: the risk data library that provides tools and standards to package the disaster risk-data for easier storage, discovery, sharing, reuse and comparison.



We are turning a corner with anticipatory action and the faster we turn this corner the better it is. The new technologies and approaches of Red Cross Red Crescent in this field are really impressive.

Debarati Guha Sapid, professor, Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters/ University of Louvain



## Disasters and conflict colliding: looking at the past to plan for the future

Can anticipatory action be done in conflict contexts? This question played an important part in this session. **Shaban Mawanda** engaged the participants in a dynamic and enlightening discussion about the current status and the way forward on anticipatory action in a complex context affected by conflict. The session gave insights into new research, including programmatic progress by FAO in Burkina Faso. The Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre provided an interesting perspective from Sudan by showing some first results on conflict mapping and a double-vulnerability analysis. Insights by **Gado Abdouramane** focused on Mali and revealed some of the challenges and lessons learnt from working with inter-community conflicts in Mali.

The second half of the session moved to an interactive exercise, where participants used this context as a starter to explore the challenges of anticipatory action in situations of conflict and make suggestions about how they could be approached in such situations. The session ended with a presentation by **Cornelia Scholz** on hotspot mapping of high-risk areas in Sudan, with particular emphasis on unmapped areas: “The overarching goal is to create very much needed mapping material and provide them as baseline data for the planning of anticipatory action and be able to reach areas that, due to lack of data, we have not been able to reach so far.”



### Speakers:

#### Moritz Krüger

Methodologies in anticipation manager, German Red Cross

#### Liesa Sauerhammer

DRR in fragile contexts manager, German Red Cross

#### Catalina Jaime

Climate and conflict manager, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

#### Shaban Mawanda

Policy and resilience advisor, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

#### Gado Abdouramane

Technical adviser, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

#### Cornelia Scholz

Junior researcher, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

#### Mark Weegmann

Junior researcher, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

#### Koffy Kouacou

Emergency and resilience coordinator, FAO



The big challenge we all face now is how to respond to needs, but also how to build and develop an anticipatory approach to better respond to food insecurity in conflict settings in the areas where we already have a problem of climate change. One can see these challenges clearly here in Burkina Faso by the 3 Cs: an overlap of climate context, conflict context and COVID.

Koffy Kouacou, emergency and resilience coordinator, FAO



## Bridging the rural-urban divide in anticipatory action: anticipating urban disaster risk in Africa

Building on previous exchanges on urban FbF at the Southern Africa Dialogue Platform, the session explored what the challenges are in implementing anticipatory action in the rapidly urbanizing context of sub-Saharan Africa. The crucial role of the communities was highlighted by **Júlio Armando Mondlane** as the base for any action. Putting communities at the centre and applying the community engagement and accessibility approach is important in understanding the situation and identifying vulnerabilities and capacities. **Dr Hassan Ahmadul** then reflected on trigger development in urban contexts (like the heat wave for Dhaka City, Bangladesh), its challenges and recommendations. In Dhaka, it was very difficult to fix the threshold for extreme events and impact levels, which are highly complex, unpredictable and dynamic. He called for greater support from anticipation dialogue platform experts!



### Speakers:

#### Jeff Woods

Advisor, humanitarian assistance in urban contexts - Africa region, German Red Cross

#### Genito Maure

Researcher, Future Resilience for African Cities and Lands (FRACTAL), Eduardo Mondlane University

#### Sheikh Khairul Rahaman

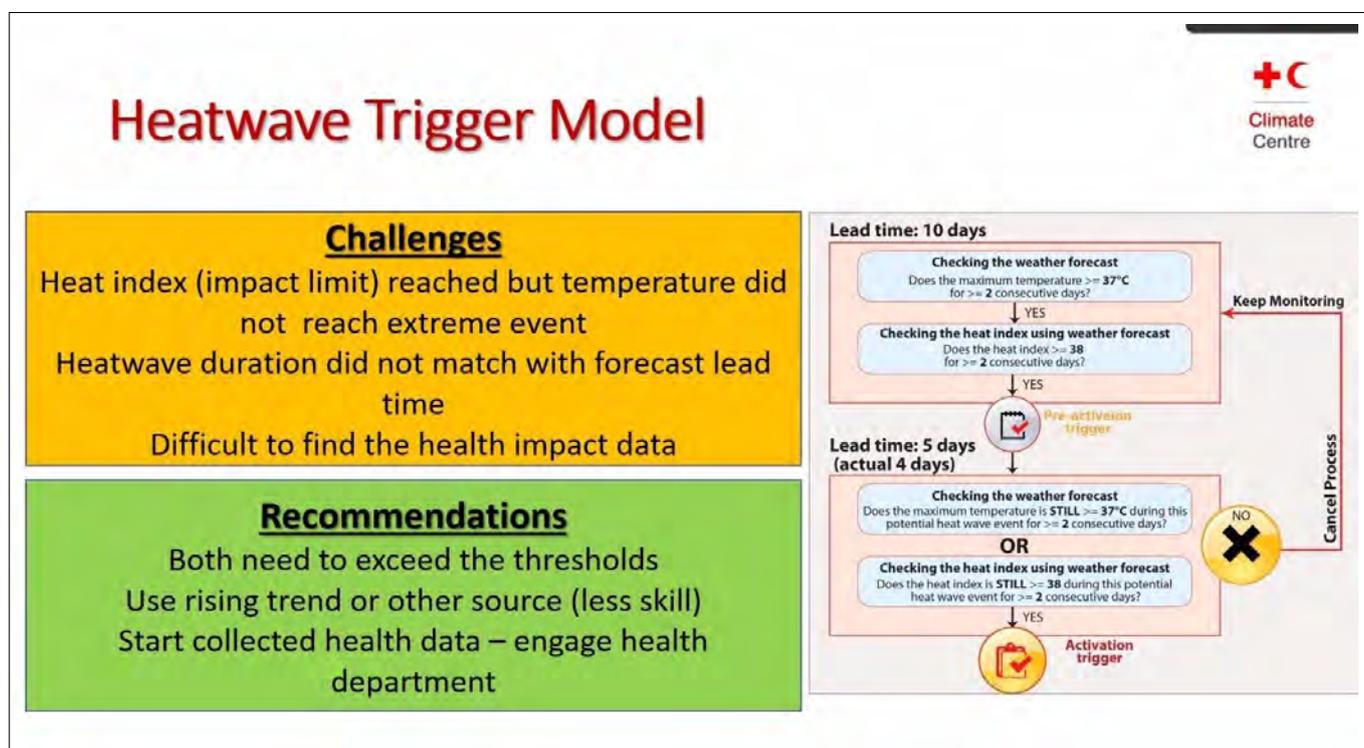
FbF project delegate, German Red Cross

#### Dr Hassan Ahmadul

Senior advisor, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

#### Júlio Armando Mondlane

Operations manager and planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting national coordinator, Mozambique Red Cross



## How are we doing it?

- Conducted a series of consultation with stakeholders
- Oriented stakeholders on Anticipatory Actions (National & Local level)
- FbF working group led by BDRCS played a vital role for communication/coordination and collaboration
- Established a strong collaboration with FbF Taskforce
- MoU with technical agencies and other actors
- Considering Covid-19 and continuing coordination: combination of physical and virtual events/meetings

Dr Hassan Ahmadul was then asked whether, based on the complexity of urban areas, he would recommend developing separate early action protocols for urban vs. rural areas, with their own triggers and different early actions: “Yes, there are differences and we are doing our best to try to address the urban challenges; for instance, exposure and vulnerability are major challenges for urban areas due to the lack of green spaces and drainage issues. So fixing the triggers is complicated due to the influence of man-made infrastructure, making it even more unpredictable.”

“

Success and sustainability of anticipatory action depend on how well we can bind different stakeholders together. Anticipatory action is the collaborative effort of the scientific community, practitioners, service providers, private sector, government, donors and communities. The effectiveness of the intervention and sustainability of the mechanism is defined by a strong knot that binds all the stakeholders together; let’s join hands to anticipate disaster, reduce the impact, human suffering and losses.

Sheikh Khairul Rahaman, FbF project delegate, German Red Cross

”

# Decision for the season: a virtual game experience

Making decisions is an important part of anticipatory humanitarian action, for example by making decisions regarding seasons. Probabilities of the event are something which must be worked with, and whether flood or drought, every probability must be prepared for - even the case where everyone is prepared for a disaster which does not happen in the end. **Pablo Suarez** explained in this session what makes it easier to make decisions based on all the information available - the most important thing is to always make a decision, or you are left out.



**Speaker:**

**Pablo Suarez**

Innovation lead, Red Cross  
Red Crescent Climate Centre

“

So, how many points did you win rolling the dice? These are some of the unconventional approaches to making decisions for seasons. The thing is, if you don't make decisions, you are left out. Also, if all you do is seek protection and ignore development, then you will not have funds for protection.”

Pablo Suarez, innovation lead Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre



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# Panel:

## Sustainability & upscaling anticipatory action: are we doing enough?

Dialogue platforms are an opportunity to take stock and reflect, but how much more must be done? **Halima Saado** started this session by asking: “In light of the investments that have been [made] so far, how much more needs to be done to scale up anticipatory action? Do we need more funding, should we increase geographical coverage, ensure community voices are maintained - what more can be done?”

**Randa Merghani** wasn't convinced that enough efforts were made, reflecting on the amount of people still suffering each year. But she saw progress, reflecting on the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' (OCHA) multistakeholder anticipation experience in Somalia last year via the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), where findings showed the importance of making enough resources available, choosing the right early interventions, using the varying strengths of all partners, aligning trigger models and agreeing on timing and responsibilities. Yet she also saw that there are still too many silos: “Overall, it takes great courage, time and strong leadership across the entire humanitarian system to ensure the sustainable implementation of anticipatory humanitarian action.”



### Speakers:

#### Halima Saado

Anticipatory action, head of research and learning, International Center for Humanitarian Affairs,, Kenya Red Cross Society

#### Kara Siahaan

Early action and disaster risk financing coordinator, IFRC

#### Randa Merghani

Head of humanitarian financing unit/manager, Somalia Humanitarian Fund, OCHA/CERF

#### Sahle Tefera

National Disaster Risk Management Commission

#### Phoebe Skikuku

DRR and FbF advisor, IFRC



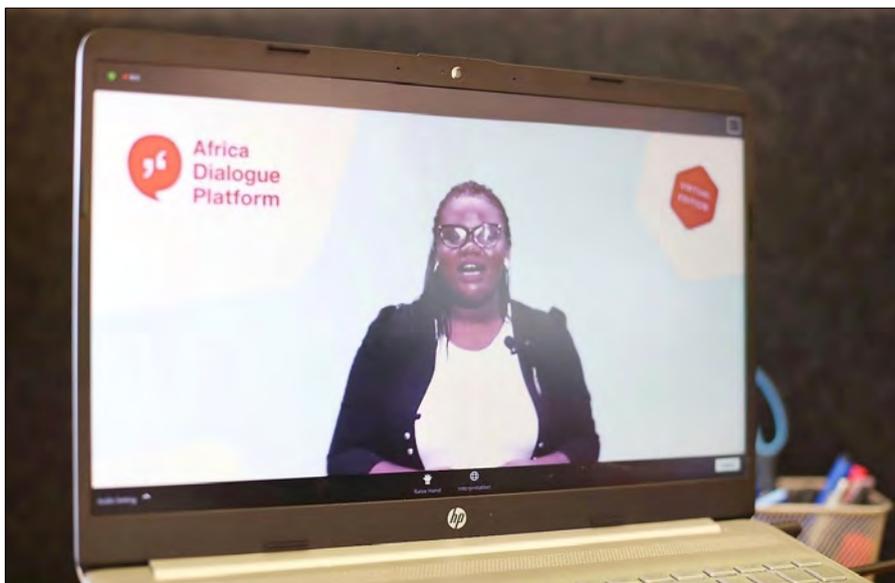
One of the issues beyond the funding is the coordination of our work. We tend to work in silos and need to bring people to the same table, which is one of the biggest challenges. We need to reach a synergy between the different organizations to close those gaps and address these challenges.

Randa Merghani, head of humanitarian financing unit/manager, Somalia Humanitarian Fund, OCHA/CERF



**Phoebe Shikuku** stressed the importance of the anticipatory action task force (AATF), which comprises the IFRC, WFP, FAO, the Start Network and OCHA, and their five key policy asks:

1. Invest in early warning and preparedness at the local level.
2. Expand flexible, predictable and coordinated financing.
3. Make anticipatory action applicable to a wider variety of hazards.
4. Encourage exchange, collective learning, coordination and partnerships around the world.
5. Mainstream anticipatory action into national disaster management systems.



“

The poorest and more vulnerable are hit hardest, leading to record levels of humanitarian needs in decades. More can and must be done, but what will it take? Let's make humanitarian assistance faster and more dignified by acting early on predictable crises.

Phoebe Shikuku, DRR and FbF advisor, IFRC

”



**Kara Siahaan** elaborated on the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement story in anticipation since 2008, continuing to describe plans for 2030 to triple the size of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) budget to 100 million Swiss francs (25 per cent for anticipation), and underlining

the efforts of the AATF, the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP) and the Anticipation Hub in bringing everyone in to do all this “together”. She made an important point: that anticipatory approaches tend to focus on immediate and visible events, rather than on creeping and less visible crises such as heat waves, or on more complex hazards such as droughts or epidemics. While early research exists, anticipatory approaches have not been widely applied in the context of fragility, conflict and violence, so compound risk - with the triple Cs of climate, conflict and COVID-19 - is still a topic to work on. In short: much more needs to be done for a systemwide shift.



Did you know that for the IFRC, our anticipatory action story began in Africa? In 2014, some innovative and courageous colleagues from the Climate Centre, German Red Cross, Uganda Red Cross (looking at Irene!) and Togo Red Cross decided to pilot a project on anticipatory action. From these two pioneering pilots, we now have 30 National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies worldwide implementing FbF. We are thankfully not alone in the journey! Beginning with WFP, and now with FAO, OCHA and the Start Network to join forces in anticipatory action - together, we are working in over 60 countries worldwide.

Kara Siahaan, early action and disaster risk financing coordinator, IFRC



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# DAY TWO

# Opening

**Irene Amuron** opened day 2 of the Africa Dialogue Platform with an inspirational poem - written by herself.

## Poems from Africa - The Journey from Yesterday

The journey from yesterday  
The Dialogue Platform opens with pomp  
A great poem with a call for us to be the change  
Lots of speakers from Kenya to Europe across Asia  
The call for effective anticipatory action grows louder  
and louder  
From Phoebe – beaming with joy  
Opening the doors for the next three days  
The journey starts  
I sit back in awe as the 4th Africa Dialogue Platform  
jeep starts its journey  
With our first stop at Florine's – a token to create a  
conducive environment to support anticipatory action  
– does she give us!  
A stronger commitment from governments, partners  
and donors to enable scale up is the loud cry from  
Cyril  
To this – we hear beautiful sounds from Germany  
– oh despair not – we come with commitment to

support the paradigm shift  
With hands in the air – we jubilate with communities  
in Seychelles as we sing and celebrate community  
engagement  
More guests join us with H.E Ole raising the flag to  
leverage technology and involve communities in long-  
term planning  
In celebration, we take a group photo and play and  
learn  
Learning do we continue all through the parallel  
session with neighbours and friends  
In communion we end the day – promising to take  
courage, commitment and leadership for effective  
anticipatory action  
The future for anticipatory action is getting brighter  
and brighter – hope you have your shades on  
  
Irene Amuron, anticipatory action manager, Red  
Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

# Panel:

## Improving EWEA: are we technically ready?

**Sergio Innocente** opened the discussion by mentioning important issues around early warning early action, triggers and thresholds for action and more, and how crucial it is to reach the 'last mile' here to ensure that early action (EWEA) is facilitated at the community level and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is possible for governments and donors: “Today we look at how technically ready we are in improving early warning to early action. We shall cover a wide range of issues including challenges and opportunities facing current early warning and information systems, triggers and thresholds for action, as well as other programmatic challenges that prevent early warning information from being translated into early actions. Also, we look at how to reach the last mile in ensuring that we are facilitating early actions at the community level, and how monitoring and evaluation of anticipatory action by governments and donors can be done effectively.”

**Brenda Lazarus** highlighted FAO’s recent East Africa regional study looking into EWEA challenges/opportunities. Despite plenty of information, there is frequently a sense of confusion about what the information means or what to do with it, and it still has no strong link to early action. She suggested we should organize contingency planning scale up with a set of commonly agreed steps/systems for anticipatory action, similar to emergency response planning, to act more effectively when early warnings signal that action is needed.



### Speakers:

**Sergio Innocente**

Regional EWEA, preparedness and response advisor, FAO Sub-regional Office for East Africa

**Brenda Lazarus**

Emergency needs assessment and early warning advisor, FAO

**Godfrey Kafera**

Southern Africa regional representative, FEWS NET

**Abdi Jama**

Coordinator, Intergovernmental Authority on Development - Food Security and Resilience Analysis Hub

**Dauda Mohammed**

Assistant coordinator - disaster management and cash transfer programmes/livelihood focal point, Nigerian Red Cross Society

**Luca Parodi**

Early warning - early action regional specialist, FAO

**Luca Parodi** said that we are technically ready at the project level, but that humanitarian programming at the country level, including EWEA, is still a challenge. He further stressed the need for an overall risk management package, particularly in contexts with protracted crises where EWEA is a component. **Godfrey Kafera** elaborated on how the early warning team at the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) has worked hard on food security outcomes, by expanding early warning projections up to eight months in advance of a crisis. This gives policy-makers sufficient time to prepare and to act, and is particularly useful in contexts like South Sudan, Somalia and Madagascar.

**Abdi Jama** stressed that despite technical advances and the availability of mobile phones, shortcomings remain with regards to reaching communities in remote and rural areas. **Dauda Mohammed** concluded the panel discussion with Nigeria's experiences, where reaching the last mile was found to be very intricate in huge populations. Matters like the availability, accessibility and attainability of programmes are important for ensuring that vulnerable communities are adequately reached.



“ We need to speak with one voice. We need all partners to share systems and disseminate coherent messages. Only then will we see a reduction in predictable shocks.

Godfrey Kafera, southern Africa regional representative, FEWS NET

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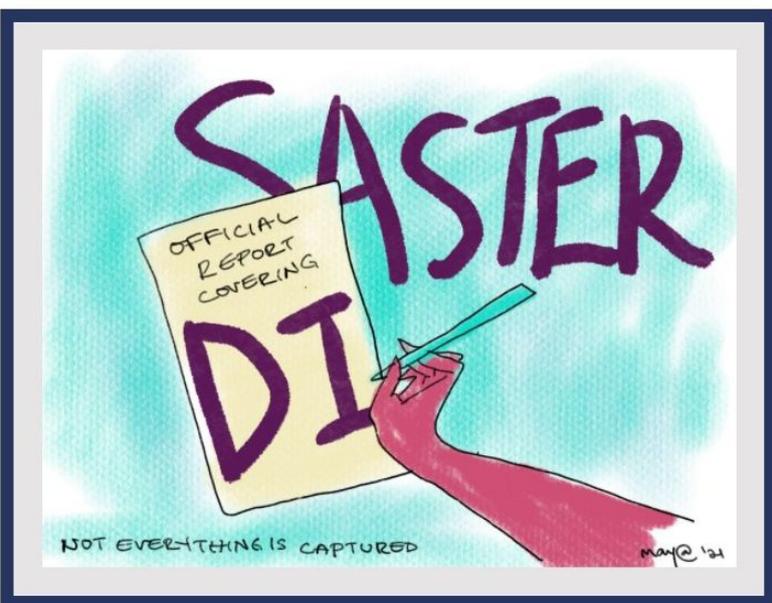
I think we are technically ready at the project scale in the sense that different actors already developed methodologies for early warning, defining triggers, triggering funding for a specific project to action. But we are still missing how we translate this in the humanitarian system, as it is not in the humanitarian programming at the country level.

Luca Parodi, early warning - early action regional specialist, FAO

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# Cartoon gallery walk

The Africa Dialogue Platform offered visual walks through the cartoons of three artists who had listened to the sessions since day 1 and started drawing their impressions. **Eddie Jjemba** and **Bettina Koelle** from the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre guided the participants through the cartoon gallery walk, which reflected the topics and ideas of the sessions in an entertaining, thought-provoking and innovative way. The cartoon gallery can be found here: <https://events.anticipation-hub.org/africa/?strytlpage=30>



Khalid Albaih / CartoonStock.com

# Parallel sessions #2

## Parametric insurance for drought: learning from the Start Network ARC Replica Senegal pay-out in 2019

Monitoring anticipatory action is important, but how can it be ensured that it really works? **Shirin Merola** and **Clemens Gros** led the discussion on what can be done to generate the desired evidence on anticipatory action in Africa and guided the audience to look at three spheres when generating evidence:

1. At the individual or household level: looking at lives that have been protected, physical and psychological well-being of affected communities, nutrition and food security, avoided asset losses, etc.
2. At the humanitarian system or institutional level: assessing the operational capacity of humanitarian organizations to act on forecasts and early warning, as well as the shift in humanitarian and disaster management culture policy towards anticipation.
3. At the forecasting level: is there enough capacity on model availability and skills, on communication of model outputs and their usability by humanitarian and disaster management actors?

In setting the scene for the evidence landscape, there isn't enough evidence based on anticipatory action - and none from Africa. There is therefore an urgent need to develop solutions to support the creation of the desired evidence in Africa. The type of evidence that is needed should be clear, simple and non-resource demanding, and provide the appropriate methodology for assessing the value of forecast-based action. It should also be impact based, accurate in forecasting to trigger anticipatory action, provide added value to households, capture conflict-related evidence that is usually not available, and target the right people.

In terms of capacity building, certain skills and experts are required to generate this evidence, as the speakers emphasized. Based on a pre-agreed trigger reached in September 2019, the African Risk Capacity (ARC) Replica parametric insurance payout was the largest funding allocation for civil society to date, with the Start Network receiving 10 million US dollars, and the government of Senegal



### Speakers:

#### Shirin Merola

Africa FbF coordinator, WFP

#### Clemens Gros

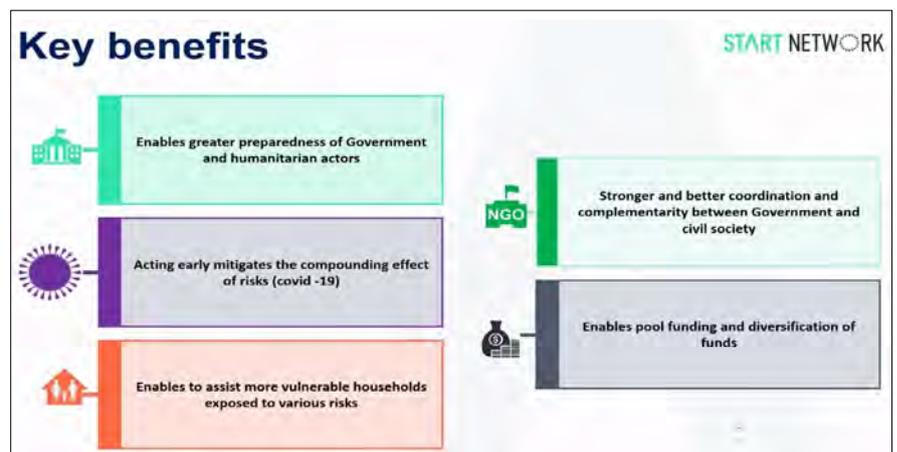
Consulting technical advisor,  
Red Cross Red Crescent Climate  
Centre

#### Amadou Diallo

Regional disaster risk finance  
co-ordinator, Start Network

#### Seheno Andrianiaina

Start Network Madagascar

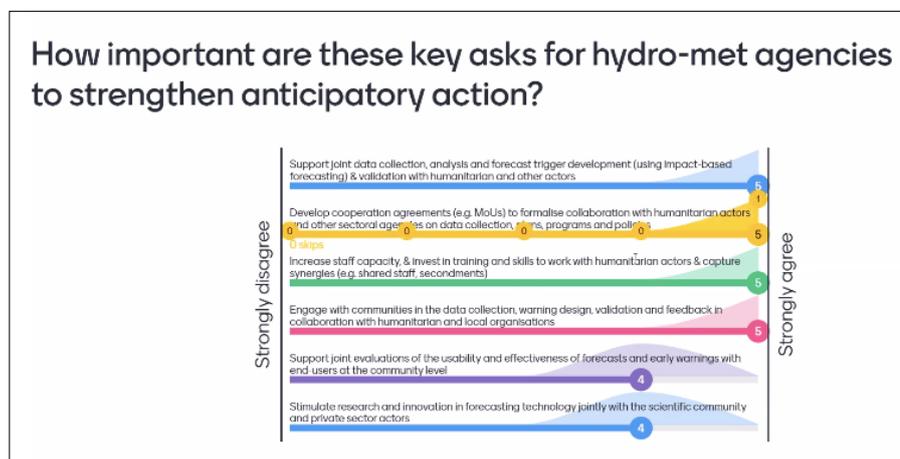


receiving 13 million US dollars for communities vulnerable to drought. ARC brings together drought-modelling software and prepositioned financing through parametric insurance. Funds were transferred in advance of the peak of the crisis, with support being disbursed in April 2020. Support ranged from disbursement of cash and food distributions, awareness-raising activities and COVID-19 related activities, reaching over 335,000 people.

## How can advocacy messages be tailored in order to scale up anticipatory action?

**Dr Nikolas Scherer** opened by posing the question that would guide this session: what sort of advocacy messages can be tailored to support national hydrological and meteorological services and disaster risk management (DRM) agencies toward the shift to anticipation? **Lydia Cumiskey** detailed six key messages, which included supporting joint data collection, developing agreements that institutionalize collaboration across sectors and agencies, increasing capacities, and engaging communities in data collection and feedback mechanisms. Dr Nikolas Scherer detailed key tasks targeted toward DRM agencies, stressing the importance of mobilizing financial resources from donors and governments, recognizing the role of anticipatory action, formalizing collaboration, and making joint training part of the advocacy strategies for the future of anticipation in the region: “Why are DRM agencies important for scaling up anticipatory action? Anticipation is an integral part of disaster risk management and cannot exist in a silo; it must be integrated and mainstreamed into different DRM strategies, plans, mechanisms and policies across sectors.”

The participants then discussed strategies in breakout rooms, potential challenges and possible opportunities. The discussions showed that key resources had to be utilized, the need to scale up capacity building at the local level, and the main barriers that organizations face in sharing information and tailoring messaging for high-level decision-makers.



### Speakers:

#### Dr Nikolas Scherer

Manager, policy and advocacy on anticipation and disaster risk financing, Anticipation Hub / German Red Cross

#### Lydia Cumiskey

Partnerships consultant, Anticipation Hub

#### Emma Louise Flaherty

Implementation lead, REAP

#### Toni Jokinen

Thematic lead - partnerships and marketplace, REAP / IFRC



# Plenary:

## Anticipatory action in the spotlight - collective storytelling & anticipatory action hot seat

This session put the spotlight on two experts, **Dirk-Jan Omtzigt** and **Maurine Ambani**. Sitting in the hot seat, both experts had to face questions by the session hosts and the audience on the challenges and future needs for anticipatory action in Africa. Dirk-Jan Omtzigt was asked to talk about the challenges in anticipation in Africa. He emphasized that the biggest challenge lies in financing and pointed out the huge funding gap: "20 per cent of crises are highly predictable yet only 1 per cent of crisis financing is pre-arranged. You can only do anticipatory action if you have the finances. We have the modelling and a wealth of knowledge available to be utilized, but we need the financing to match. Everyone is supportive, but if you don't have the financing, it is not going to happen!" Although technical knowledge and modelling capacity are available to be utilized, they require financing to match. A conceptual solution is needed for what financing is allocated, and how an increase of the speed and volume of finance can be achieved.

Long-term capacity strengthening also remains a huge challenge in Africa, specifically bridging the science gap between the global South and North, as Maurine Ambani noted. The technical capacity is usually not within African meteorological institutions and amongst scientists, and is currently not matching the need for science-based solutions in anticipatory action. Therefore, empowering African scientists to develop their own solutions should be a major goal. The next crucial step is continuing to build the evidence base that anticipatory action is faster, more dignified and more efficient, according to Dirk-Jan Omtzigt. There is progress in discovering and better understanding the co-benefits of anticipatory action, as well as in targeting people, which helps it to be more accountable to the affected people. Hence, it is important to clearly identify and show those benefits.

Maurine Ambani concluded with what must happen next for anticipation in Africa:

1. Jointly build the evidence base to show that anticipatory action is faster, more dignified and more efficient.
2. Jointly advocate the co-benefits of anticipatory action, such as a more inclusive targeting of people (e.g. women and girls) and being more accountable.
3. Jointly scale up the volume of financing for anticipatory action and align financing mechanisms.



### Speakers:

#### **Bettina Koelle**

Red Cross Red Crescent  
Climate Centre

#### **Eddie Jjemba**

Advisor, Red Cross Red Crescent  
Climate Centre

#### **Shirin Merola**

Africa FbF coordinator, WFP

#### **Phoebe Shikuku**

DRR and FbF advisor, IFRC

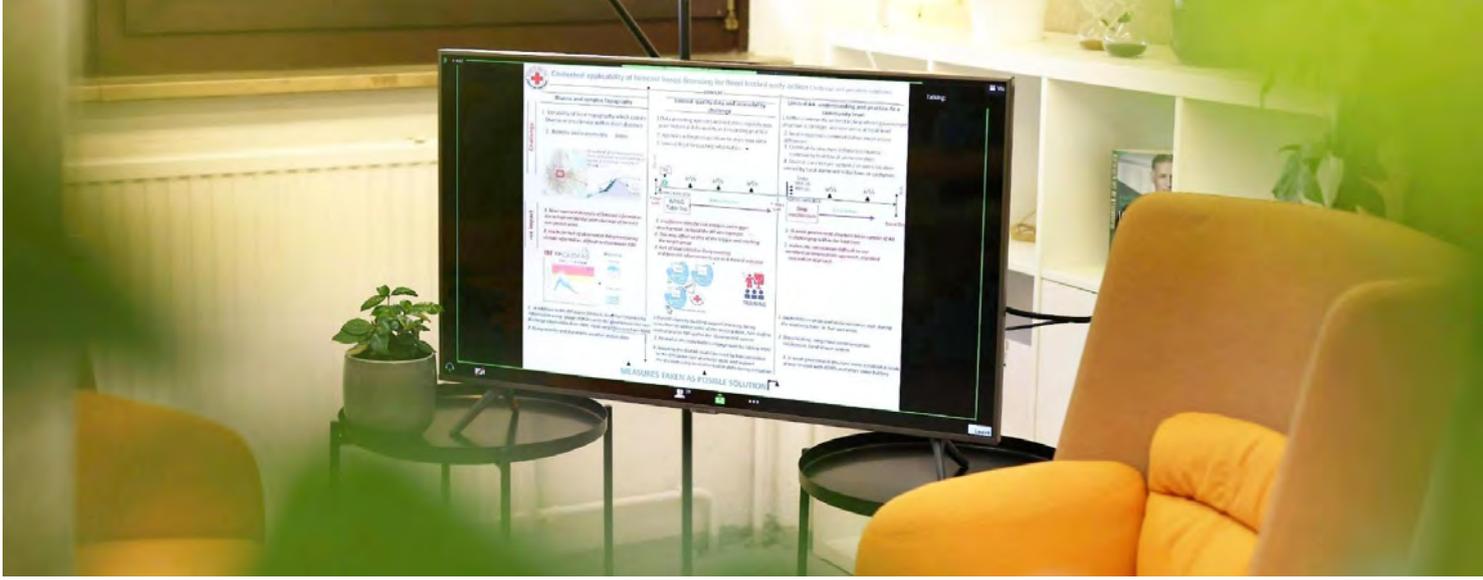
#### **Maurine Ambani**

Eastern Africa FbF regional  
coordinator, WFP

#### **Dirk-Jan Omtzigt**

Chief economist and head,  
Humanitarian Financing Strategy  
and Analysis Unit, OCHA





## Parallel sessions #3

### Overcoming data and governance challenges for anticipatory action in Ethiopia

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society has been working with government and UN stakeholders to establish a national FbF/anticipatory action system for effective early warning and early action, including the National Disaster Risk Management Commission and the National Met Agency. **Abraham Tesfaye** discussed the key challenges experienced especially related to data and governance, including:

1. the diverse and complex topography making it difficult to develop forecasts
2. remote and inaccessible areas making dissemination difficult
3. limited data quality and accessibility causing delays for developing risk analysis, triggers and impact-based forecasting
4. poor coordination and communication, especially for indigenous communities,
5. limited understanding of anticipatory action at the community level.

He also highlighted the importance of engaging with key government agencies to fill the data gaps, including establishing memorandums of understanding, and utilizing National Societies and other local groups to fill the communication and coordination gaps. A video summarizing the project can be found here: <https://events.anticipation-hub.org/africa/?strytpage=30>



#### Speakers:

##### **Abraham Tesfaye**

Innovative Approaches to Response Preparedness - Ethiopian programme coordinator, Ethiopian Red Cross Society

##### **Sirak Temesgen**

Regional delegate for East Africa, Institute of Risk Management, The Netherlands Red Cross

##### **Aderajew Admasu**

Technical advisor, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

##### **Henok Wondimu**

Geographic information systems coordinator

“

The issue of early warning and early action is high on the Ethiopian government's agenda - being one of the key pillars of the DRM policy. There is no problem in terms of their commitment but they want to see that it really makes a difference on the ground and that it can be implemented within the short time window following the forecast.

Sirak Temesgen, regional delegate for East Africa, Institute of Risk Management, The Netherlands Red Cross

”



## Forecast-based financing for drought in southern Africa

**Anna Lena Huhn** and **Dorothy Heinrich** shared their journey on the emerging topic regarding FbF in southern Africa. Anna Lena Huhn explained: "We built on what had been done in Mozambique and then expanded into a regional setup, with Namibia and Lesotho joining in and sharing the common hazard of drought to set up FbF for drought risks. We needed to diversify the network that we were working with and engage local academia to support the analytical process."

To accomplish that, they tried to use the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre notes for guidance, translating drought guidance into programmatic and analytical steps. By asking all these different questions at different stages, they were able to gather the relevant information. As a

next step, they merged analytical tools to find the best operational fit for drought FbF in each national context: "We did that while ensuring wider stakeholder engagement with various groups to gain ownership and participation at all levels."

Dorothy Heinrich added that the philosophy of FbF is based on the ability to understand and predict future weather/climate, forecasts thus being the cornerstone for early actions. She explained: "We do this by understanding the hazard and its drivers, exploring national capacity at producing relevant forecasts, and complementing this with regional and international forecasts. We consider the object of the forecasts, spatial or temporal resolution, the outlook as well as periods of availability, and skills required for the programme."



### Speakers:

**Dorothy Heinrich**  
Technical advisor, Red Cross  
Red Crescent Climate Centre

**Guigma Kiswendisda**  
Technical advisor, Red Cross  
Red Crescent Climate Centre

**David MacLeod**  
Consultant, Red Cross  
Red Crescent Climate Centre

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



Feasibility was done within various research groups and people were excited by what it means to do anticipatory action for drought. In developing guidance for this emerging topic, our approach was centred around building an understanding of recent climate trends, understanding that food security impacts can be dominated by the long-term trends, and recognizing that community, national and international responses can mask the relationships between rainfall and food insecurity.

Dorothy Heinrich, technical advisor, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

## Spotlight on readiness: what does it take to implement anticipatory actions in the window of opportunity?

WFP presented two national-level examples of developing pilots, in Ethiopia and in Mozambique, in this session. **Esther Kabaire** set the scene, explaining that there are currently 6.47 million people who are recurrently food insecure in Ethiopia and almost three million chronically food insecure. WFP used the integrated context analysis to identify the most vulnerable *woredas* (districts) in the Somali Region to target



assistance. OCHA determined the trigger for drought with support from the national-level technical working group chaired by the National Disaster Risk Management Commission and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society. WFP identified anticipatory actions, specifically early warning information as well as cash transfers to almost 15,000 pastoralists, which is disbursed in four tranches at crucial lean times. In terms of challenges highlighted through the process, she noted that new procedures needed time to set up, and that internal systems needed to be adapted and streamlined to allow for anticipatory actions to be done on time.

**Silvia Pieretto** presented experiences of anticipatory action for drought in Mozambique, where 70 per cent of the population is reliant on rainfed agriculture. Although the Mozambique Red Cross Society has experiences with FbF, anticipation of drought is relatively new. The system aims to enable forecasts and monitoring as an integrated approach. A multistakeholder technical working group was established to oversee the design and implementation of the whole process. Last year, the anticipatory actions failed to trigger because the window of two months for activation was insufficient. While WFP had identified the anticipatory actions, selected locations and had a trigger and indicators in place, there was no final agreement with the government. Scenarios for activations through the social protection programme had not been tested, and the trigger and indicators were not finally endorsed by the government. She highlighted that standard operating procedures and plans are not sufficient; pre-agreements and pre-contracts need to be in place for timely activation.



### Speakers:

**Maurine Ambani**  
Eastern africa FbF regional coordinator, WFP

**Shirin Merola**  
Africa FbF coordinator, WFP

**Esther Kabaire**  
Head of M&E and vulnerability mapping and analysis, WFP Ethiopia

**Silvia Pieretto**  
Resilience coordinator, WFP Mozambique

“

Drought is never as pressing as cyclones and floods. So we need to be ‘more than ready’ for hazards such as drought when symptoms are not so visible.

Silvia Pieretto, resilience coordinator, WFP Mozambique

”

4th Africa Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory  
Humanitarian Action – Systems building:  
supporting effective anticipatory action in Africa

# DAY THREE

# Breakout groups

On day 3, three breakout groups focused on special regions in Africa and their challenges: eastern Africa, western/Sahel Africa, southern Africa

## Breakout group - eastern Africa

This knowledge-sharing session, facilitated by **Brenda Lazarus**, aimed to increase collaborations and partnerships among various regional stakeholders in eastern, western / Sahel and southern Africa in the areas of anticipatory actions for various hazards, with the goals of analyzing the current progress of anticipatory action in the region, and developing new ways of collaborating and partnering.



**Moderator:**

**Brenda Lazarus**

Emergency needs assessment and early warning advisor, FAO

To address anticipatory action, three pertinent questions were discussed.

1. What are organizations doing in the areas of hazard focus, coordination structures, capacity building, financing, implementation and any other intervention?

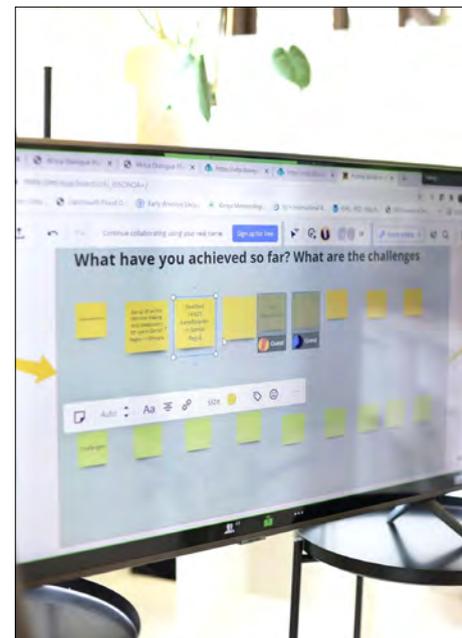
The kinds of hazards being addressed are floods, drought, desert locusts and coastal erosion. In terms of coordination structures, there are national, regional and global platforms as coordination is ongoing at different levels. There is also community capacity building on forecast-based action which is critical in ensuring that local communities are involved in anticipatory action. In addition, there are several financing instruments being implemented in the region.

2. What has been achieved so far and what challenges were encountered?

An FbF decision-making tool (Maproom) is used in the Somali Region in Ethiopia. WFP reached 14,625 beneficiaries in the Somali Region with anticipatory cash, while identification of anticipatory action at the subnational level, and being able to differentiate them from early response challenges, is happening as well as cash interventions. Challenges encountered include financing, especially when actual disasters are happening, as there is limited understanding of anticipatory action. Implementation of activities was also hindered by the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. What future plans do you have on anticipatory humanitarian action and potential areas of collaboration?

There were several ideas, including: scaling anticipatory action to involve more vulnerable locations; integrating anticipatory action



systems into government systems, especially financing; building capacity to implement anticipatory actions; and testing them against regular humanitarian responses to determine the efficacy of anticipatory action. Areas of collaboration include involving universities in the documentation of anticipatory action, investing more in the co-production of forecast products, and strengthening information sharing among the wide spectrum of actors.

“

The East African region has been experiencing a range of events such as droughts causing food insecurity, displacements, floods, desert locusts and the COVID-19 pandemic, which all require concerted action. This has amplified the need for a shift from reactionary to anticipatory action to reduce human loss and property, as some interventions have not translated into early action. Going forward, we propose a platform for anticipatory action that captures several issues affecting the region. The platform will focus on three pillars that include co-designing triggers and early warning actions, advocacy for financing, and facilitating learning and knowledge sharing.

Phoebe Shikuku, DRR and FbF advisor, IFRC

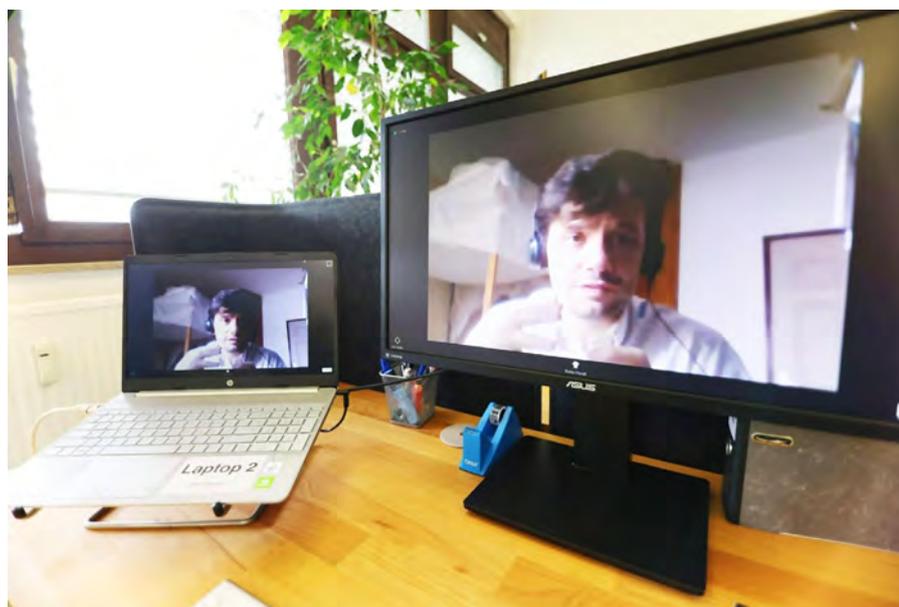
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## Breakout group - western/Sahel Africa

In this breakout group, **Luca Parodi** and **Shirin Merola** guided the discussion that sought to analyse and share achievements and future plans for anticipatory action in western Africa and the Sahel region. Participants shared their experiences and recent activities related to anticipation, such as recent developments in Niger regarding the anticipatory action pilot programme related to drought, the wide collaboration across sectors, and the current plans to organize a national workshop to bring many actors together. Other participants shared insights about the World Bank's focus on improving modelling in the region for quick-trigger applications in cases of drought.

**Mariama Nouh** shared details of the implementation of the first pilots in Niger, including the mapping and identification of key actors and present gaps, as well as the development of an online forecasting platform and available decision-making tools. In Burkina Faso, the development of an anticipatory action framework with support from FAO, the IFRC and WFP and the launch of a two-year pilot programme



with a focus on drought took place. **Hilaire Nare** from FAO then recounted some of the activities taking place in Chad, including a focus on mapping and the formation of working groups related to flood and drought.

Luca Parodi summarized some of the highlights from the region in the last few months, especially the interest and activity related to anticipation across Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger and Senegal. A Menti page facilitated further discussion on the key priorities for future collaboration and partnership in the region, with answers stating the need for sharing lessons learned, strengthening coordination for tools, regional training, agreeing on joint triggers, and scaling up activities.



### Moderators:

#### Luca Parodi

Early warning - early action regional specialist, FAO

#### Shirin Merola

Africa FbF coordinator, WFP



Since the last dialogue [platform], there has been a progression of technical work among the actors. There has been progress in anticipation of other hazards including COVID-19, conflict and displacement, and the desert locust. But the main highlight in the last few months is definitely the fact that OCHA has selected Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad as three pilot countries for the launching of CERF anticipatory action interagency work.

Luca Parodi, early warning - early action regional specialist, FAO



## Breakout group - southern Africa

This session built upon the output of the Southern Africa Dialogue Platform, a multistakeholder group bringing together actors across the Red Cross Red Crescent network, government actors, international non-governmental organizations, UN agencies and hydrological and meteorological agencies to exchange knowledge and coordinate on anticipatory action in southern Africa. It explained the four pillars of the interagency roadmap on anticipatory action for southern Africa being developed by the regional technical working group, which were also the topics of the breakout groups:

1. alignment of anticipatory action
2. harmonization of triggers
3. aligning financing mechanisms
4. advocacy.

The breakout group on trigger harmonization reflected on the framework to characterize the hazards into lead times, trigger thresholds, forecast sources and the main early actions, focusing on Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The University of Reading expressed how to better characterize dry spells, while FEWS NET shared that it is releasing CHIRPS 3.0 (Climate Hazards Group InfraRed Precipitation with Station data), which will significantly improve the reliability.

The breakout group on the alignment of early actions discussed what this really looks like and how to achieve it. Zimbabwe has demonstrated all the great coordination that is already happening but there are gaps in terms of reaching all communities at risk. The group proposed that different actors lead in different phases of early action, are better distributed geographically and widen their scope of early actions to a broader range of sectoral impacts. They suggested further exploring the OCHA pilot approach to coordination for anticipatory action in Malawi and further capitalizing on the regional working groups to strengthen links between national- and regional-level coordination.



### Moderators:

#### **Quraishia Merzouk**

Early warning and anticipatory action specialist, FAO

#### **Jurg Wilbrink**

DRR and FbF advisor southern Africa, IFRC

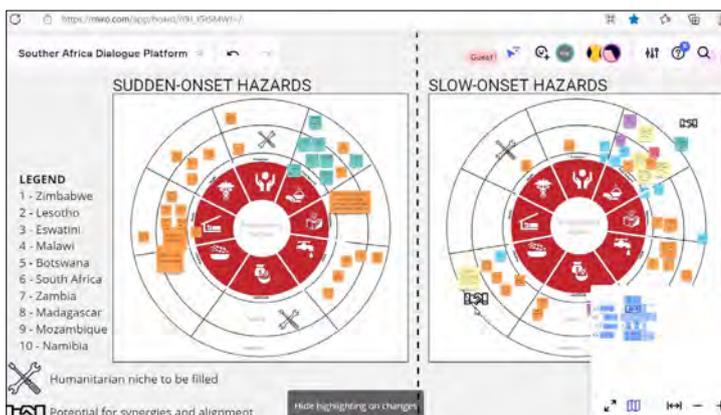
#### **Arlindo Meque**

FbF coordinator for southern Africa, WFP



We have a huge task ahead of us but we are up for the challenge and encourage everyone to continue to work together at the country and regional levels to achieve the interagency roadmap for southern Africa.

Quraishia Merzouk, early warning and anticipatory action specialist, FAO





## Stories from Africa

Storytelling can be a guide through complex topics like coordination and partnerships. This session showed illustrations based on real-life experiences.



“

The ambition is high, but the challenges are also great, so we have to brace ourselves and think about the various possibilities.

Eddie Jjemba, advisor, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

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# Putting words to action: report back from regional breakout groups - our message to the world

**Luca Parodi** presented the key takeaways from the breakouts to the plenary. There are several actors working in this space and there have been many developments in the last year. The main needs for the future lie in increasing coordination and collaboration across the region. Establishing working groups, regional training and regional advocacy will lead to shared lessons and tools. The commonalities across hazards and contexts can help improve anticipation across the whole region. In addition, there have been major requests to increase anticipatory action on floods from partners and donors, but gaps in the early warning capacities still remain.

“

We need to do a lot of lobbying to open the right doors to scale up anticipatory action in the southern Africa region.

Quraishia Merzouk, early warning and anticipatory action specialist, FAO

”

# Closing session

The closing session highlighted many of the key messages shared during the 4th Africa Dialogue Platform. There was a call to build capacity, reach scale, nurture the anticipatory action movement and foster coordination across humanitarian actors, but also with government agencies, the private sector and donor governments. These are the most important messages.

- Invest in research and science capacities in African institutions
- Reach scale by aligning finance and resources
- Work with sustainability in mind
- Build anticipatory action into national DRM systems
- Build a movement for anticipatory action, linking local to global
- Harmonize methodologies and tools across agencies
- More partnerships, collaboration and cooperation

Many successes and lessons can be seen as clearly captured across a range of topics, including expanding the evidence base, cash and social protection, impact data analysis, and applying anticipatory action in fragile settings amid compounding risks.

The IFRC, FAO, WFP, the Start Network, the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and the German Red Cross presented Africa's anticipation key messages to the world for the next few years. **Florine Clomegah** recognized the creeping and less visible crises such as heat waves, droughts and epidemics, and the compounded crises that have proven an African reality, underscoring the Red Cross Red Crescent's commitment to stay part of communities, and to continue to support the anticipatory approach via plans to triple the size of the DREF budget to 100 million Swiss francs, of which 25 per cent will go towards anticipation.



## Speakers:

**Florine Clomegah**

Deputy regional director, IFRC

**Niccolò Lombardi**

Emergency and rehabilitation officer, FAO Office of Emergencies and Resilience

**Alexandra Rüth**

Anticipation Hub - head of thematic cooperation, German Red Cross



I am glad that the Anticipation Hub is already actively engaging various stakeholders in key conversations. I would like to encourage more of the stakeholders present here today to partner with the Anticipation Hub.

Florine Clomegah, deputy regional director, IFRC



**Niccolò Lombardi** emphasized how the Africa Dialogue Platform has grown in terms of the quality of content and diversity of participation from different geographical areas and sectors.



“

Every year, the platform improves in terms of richness and quality of content that we share, because we continue to learn, share and improve what we do. The number of partners is also increasing and this means we are covering more territory. We heard about several pilots that have led to rapid disbursement of financial resources, which is critical for the effective support of vulnerable people. The challenges that we encounter now need to motivate all of us to speed up the transition from reaction to anticipation.

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

”

**Alexandra Rùth** highlighted how the Anticipation Hub will continue strengthening knowledge exchange, learning, guidance and advocacy for anticipatory action by working closely with partners active in the region to implement its newly launched strategy.



“

There is still the need to scale up the implementation of anticipatory action and we have seen progress in Africa at national and regional levels as more and more stakeholders are joining forces to put anticipatory action into practice. We have also heard that stronger commitments are needed from governments, partners and donors and that we have to jointly work on the optimized use of our available resources, including the involvement of the private sector.

Alexandra Rùth, head of thematic cooperation and the Anticipation Hub, German Red Cross

”

# Closing words

The 4th Africa Dialogue Platform's theme was 'Systems building: supporting effective anticipatory action in Africa' – and it delivered on this. It offered a great lineup of topics, speakers and panelists, including the business community, governments, academia and the humanitarian development community.

Thanks to all the participants and contributors who shared their ideas and brought people together. The most important message of this platform to the world can be found here: [https://www.anticipation-hub.org/Documents/Other/Our\\_message\\_to\\_the\\_world\\_AD2021.pdf](https://www.anticipation-hub.org/Documents/Other/Our_message_to_the_world_AD2021.pdf)

This joint statement, made by the partners at the end of the event, which summarizes the key messages of the 4th Africa Dialogue Platform, including some original cartoons created during the sessions.

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We are all at the same place and we all face the same challenges. We can only face these challenges through collaboration.

Sipho Moloinyane, FAO

”

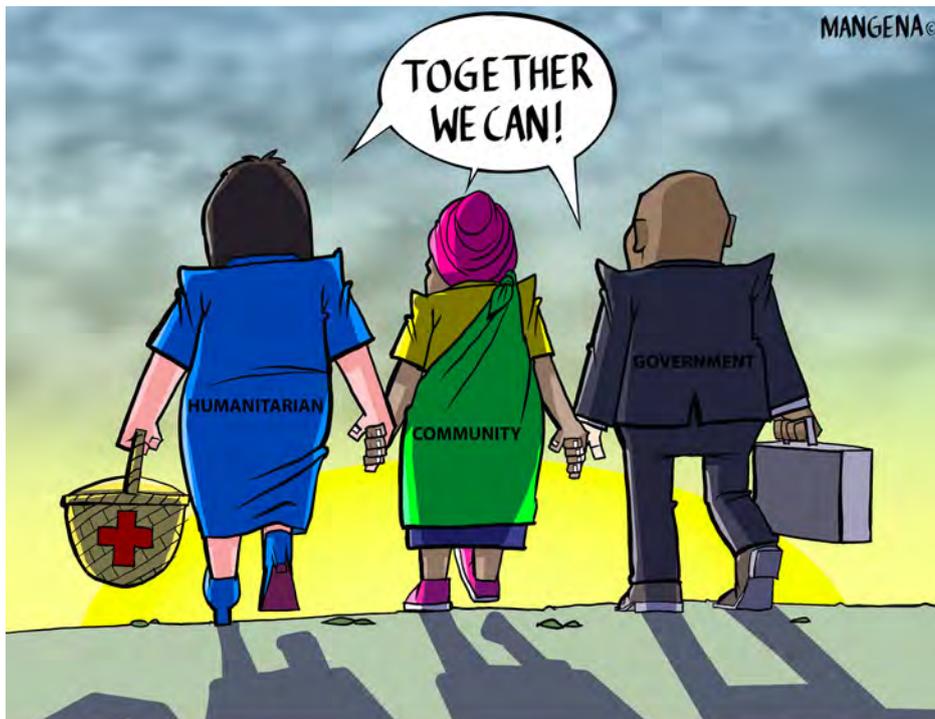


# Links

The live blog, on which this report is based, can be read here:  
<https://events.anticipation-hub.org/africa/>

You can find out more about the AATF here:  
[www.anticipation-hub.org/exchange/networks-and-forums/anticipatory-action-task-force-aatf](http://www.anticipation-hub.org/exchange/networks-and-forums/anticipatory-action-task-force-aatf)

Read more about all the dialogue platforms here:  
[www.anticipation-hub.org/exchange/dialogue-platforms](http://www.anticipation-hub.org/exchange/dialogue-platforms)



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**Editors**

Diana Mantel  
Tim Woods  
Marlene Fielder  
Kara Siahaan  
Phoebe Shikuku

**Layout and typesetting**

storytile GmbH

**Credits**

German Red Cross  
storytile



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