



Middle East and North Africa Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action: First Edition

10-12 July 2024, Dubai and online

Concept Note

Background:

The 1st MENA Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action will take place as a hybrid event in July 2024. There will be an in-person conference and online sessions involving participants from around the MENA region. This year's event is held under the theme 'Preparing for the (un)predictable: Connecting the dots.'

This event is hosted by the Anticipation Hub, an initiative of the German Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre. It is also co-organized by the World Food Program (WFP), supported by the Weather and Climate Information Services (WISER) program funded by UK International Development from the UK government managed by the Met Office in the UK.

Anticipatory Action provides an opportunity to mitigate the impacts of different threats affecting the most vulnerable populations and their livelihoods, allowing governments, at-risk populations, and the humanitarian community to act before disasters occur or before they peak as soon as they are anticipated and a warning sign appears, connected with the Disaster Risk Management continuum.

The "Anticipatory Action in the MENA Region: State of Play & Accelerating Action" report done by WFP with the support of ODI provides an overview of opportunities and challenges for AA in the MENA region to produce compelling options and evidence to inform decision-makers about AA in the context of MENA.

Partners



The Anticipation Hub is an initiative of



Supported by



Anticipatory action is key to effective humanitarian response to disasters and implementation of climate action in the MENA region.

The MENA region is facing multiple crises, and the humanitarian system is strained with resources being stretched. As a result, innovative solutions are needed to bridge gaps and use resources more efficiently. Anticipatory Action provides an opportunity to embed anticipation capacities into ongoing efforts across the humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding nexus.

The MENA countries in the region need to integrate and enhance the anticipatory mechanisms for acting ahead of a crisis before disasters unfold. This will require more investment to improve preparedness based on scientific information, early warnings, pre-agreed plans with identified measures, actors including governments and partners, and pre-agreed finance to preserve human dignity, save lives, and reduce losses and damages.

The region also faces complex conflict and economic risks that will be further exacerbated by climate change impacts that present climate security challenges, including loss of livelihoods, migration, displacement, and threats to regional development and stability. Economic shocks and stressors are particularly important, and the ability to anticipate these would be transformative.

Anticipatory action, or AA, is rapidly gaining momentum. While most disaster response and humanitarian operations are still mobilized after the onset of a crisis, AA refers to actions taken before a disaster to mitigate its most damaging impacts and speed up recovery. These actions are set in motion and informed by forecasts and other early warning information before a hazard strikes, or before a hazard event develops into a disaster.

Anticipatory Action represents an important opportunity in the MENA region because of its potential to help avoid and reduce the impacts of disasters, which are expected to become more frequent and intense because of climate change and conflict. However, AA is still nascent within the region, so there are multiple challenges, including the policy and advocacy work that need to be done by all partners and local institutions to move ahead with the climate finance agenda.

In August of 2022, The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) signed a regional Memorandum of Understanding to support joint advocacy, capacity development, and resource mobilization for the coordinated national level implementation of anticipatory action in response to climate shocks in the Middle East and North Africa.

To support this, IFRC and WFP are establishing the “MENA Anticipatory Action regional community of practice” as a space for technical and advocacy coordination, collaboration,

Partners



The Anticipation Hub is an initiative of



Supported by



learning exchange, and capacity strengthening on anticipatory action and acting earlier ahead of disasters in the region. The initiative will bring together UN agencies, the Red Cross Red Crescent movement, as well as international organizations, governments, NGOs, the public and private sectors, and academia to coordinate and work together to effectively scale up and deliver anticipatory action programs as the threat of climate shocks continues to grow.

Building on the outcomes from "Preparing for the (un)predictable: anticipatory action in the face of climate change and changing texts."

Objective Anticipatory Action MENA Dialog Platform

The Anticipatory Action Dialog Platform in the MENA region will be the first learning and exchange space that will bring like-minded stakeholders, government, and civil society in the MENA region to develop a common vision for tools required, in-depth analysis, and advocacy for sustained transformations into the humanitarian system. The event will also facilitate learning, exchange tested ideas from other regions, and equip delegates with the necessary knowledge to accelerate activities relevant to anticipatory action. This will be an opportunity for all stakeholders in the anticipatory action sector - humanitarians, communities, governments, donors, researchers, scientists, and others - to:

- Present the evidence on why and how we should approach AA in the region.
- Showcase ongoing activities and their vision.
- Offer technical knowledge to larger audience on different elements of AA.
- Discuss a common roadmap for the region and identify critical milestones for advocacy.
- Promote a dynamic knowledge-sharing ecosystem among regional partners, facilitating the exchange of best practices, lessons learned, and innovative approaches to anticipatory action, thus enhancing collective preparedness and response capabilities.
- Identify financing options for anticipatory action in MENA and the key elements related to the Climate Finance.

Participants

The participants of the MDP will comprise a diverse array of stakeholders deeply invested in enhancing anticipatory action and disaster risk reduction efforts. Among these stakeholders, we anticipate:

- **Local Stakeholders:** Community leaders, representatives from local NGOs, grassroots organizations, and civil society groups actively engaged in disaster risk management and community resilience-building initiatives.
- **Governmental Bodies:** Officials from national and local government agencies responsible for disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts, including ministries of interior, disaster management authorities, and relevant regulatory bodies.

Partners



The Anticipation Hub is an initiative of



Supported by



- Humanitarian Agencies: Representatives from international and regional humanitarian organizations, including the United Nations agencies, international NGOs, and regional humanitarian networks, bringing extensive experience and expertise in disaster response and humanitarian assistance.
- Academic Institutions: Researchers, academics, and experts specializing in disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and anticipatory action, providing insights and evidence-based recommendations to inform policy and practice.
- Donors: Representatives from bilateral and multilateral donor agencies, development banks, and philanthropic foundations committed to supporting initiatives aimed at strengthening resilience and reducing disaster risks in the MENA region.
- Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement: Members and volunteers from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies working on Disaster Management or Anticipatory Action.
- Anticipatory Action Community of Practice members

Participants will jointly prepare an outcome statement during the event to capture the key recommendations from the discussions. This will inform the Regional Work Plan of the Early Warning for All initiative, including the current members of the Anticipatory Action Community of Practice.

Agenda

The three-day event will be structured to maximize engagement and learning opportunities for Community of Practice (CoP) members. On the initial day, different partners will present ongoing activities on AA. The following day will center on knowledge exchange and learning sessions, providing a platform for sharing experiences and insights among CoP members. Finally, participants will convene for a comprehensive face-to-face meeting, addressing ongoing matters and receiving updates pertinent to their collective endeavors.

Partners



The Anticipation Hub is an initiative of



Supported by



	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	
	Connecting the dots	Confronting challenges	Commit to purpose	
9:00	Plenary - Opening Session	Plenary		Regional Community of Practice Meeting
9:30		Fragility - example from other regions	Learning Session: TBC	
10:00	AA concept	Discussing Evidence	Learning Session: TBC	
10:30	Capacity - govt. buy in, technical capacity		Learning Session: TBC	
11:00	Break		Break	
11:30	Initiative Showcase - TBC	Break		Break
12:00	Initiative Showcase - TBC	Develop AA Plans	Financing AA in MENA	Closing session
12:30	Initiative Showcase - TBC			
13:00	Lunch and Networking		Lunch	
13:30	Lunch and Networking		Lunch	
14:00	Lunch and Networking		Lunch	
14:30	Initiative Showcase - TBC	Migration in MENA: Can AA be relevant?	What do we need to develop triggers?	
15:00	Initiative Showcase - TBC			
15:30	Break		Break	
16:00	Initiative Showcase - TBC	Talk Show, Debate: panel discussion		
16:30	Initiative Showcase - TBC	Talk Show, Debate: panel discussion		
17:30	Networking block (optional)		Networking block (optional)	
<i>There will be a welcome reception for in-person delegates at Day 01. Time and Venue will be communicated later.</i>				

For more information, please contact Charbel Elia, IFRC Regional Anticipatory Action Senior Officer on charbel.elia@ifrc.org or +961 81 552 325

Partners



The Anticipation Hub is an initiative of

Supported by

