



GREAT LAKES REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON ANTICIPATORY ACTION AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

STRENGTHENING MULTI-HAZARD ANTICIPATORY ACTION IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION: PROGRESS, LEARNING AND THE PATH TO SCALE

Organised by	FAO, WFP, IFRC and ICPAC
Date	31 October 2026 (1 day)
Location	Mombasa, Kenya (venue TBC)
Expected participants	Up to 40: ECHO Great Lakes pilot countries (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Republic of the Congo (Congo-Brazzaville) and Uganda), national government counterparts, ICPAC, selected SCALAA consortium partners

1. Background

The Great Lakes region – encompassing the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Burundi, Congo Brazzaville, Tanzania, and Uganda – faces a distinct and complex multi-hazard risk profile. Recurrent droughts, floods, volcanic activity, disease outbreaks, and protracted displacement combine to create layered vulnerabilities across communities and ecosystems that transcend national borders.

Since 2023, the ECHO-funded Great Lakes Regional Disaster Preparedness Project, implemented by WFP, FAO and IFRC in partnership with national governments, Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies, WFP, and other partners, has worked to strengthen regional and national anticipatory action (AA) systems across the region. Key areas of focus have included the development of multi-hazard early warning and trigger systems, composite vulnerability assessment approaches, context, gender and protection (CGP) analysis, simulation exercises (SIMEXs), and support to national AA strategies, anticipatory action plans (AAPs) and coordination platforms, with DRC and Rwanda as primary focus countries and a regional lens covering the wider Great Lakes.

The 2nd Eastern Africa Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action (EADP-2), convened 28–30 October 2026 in Mombasa, brings together the broader Eastern Africa AA community to accelerate institutionalisation and scale. The Great Lakes Regional Dialogue on Anticipatory Action (GLDAA) on 31 October 2026 is organised as a dedicated follow-on day, bringing together approximately 40 partners from across the Great Lakes to deepen regional dialogue, share lessons from the project's implementation experience, and collectively define priorities for the next phase of anticipatory action in this distinct sub-region.

2. Rationale

While the Great Lakes shares strategic priorities with the broader Eastern Africa AA agenda, the region presents specific characteristics that merit dedicated space for dialogue:

- **Cross-border agroclimatic systems** that do not align with national administrative boundaries, requiring harmonised triggers, shared early warning data, and coordinated anticipatory action protocols across countries.



- **Complex multi-hazard and multi-risk environments**, including persistent displacement and protection dynamics across the region, requiring context-specific approaches to AA design, targeting, and implementation that go beyond single-hazard frameworks.
- **Heterogeneous institutional landscapes**, including variable capacity among national meteorological, hydrological, and disaster management authorities, and uneven progress in the development and operationalisation of national AA roadmaps and protocols.
- **Distinct financing dynamics**, including limited access to anticipatory financing for national and local actors, and ongoing dependency on external project-based funding with limited government-owned contingency mechanisms.

The GLDAA creates a dedicated space for partners from this sub-region to examine these specificities, share operational learning from recent activations and preparedness investments, and produce concrete, collectively owned recommendations for strengthening regional AA systems.

3. Objectives

The Great Lakes Regional Day aims to:

- Take stock of progress, achievements, and lessons from the ECHO Great Lakes Regional Disaster Preparedness Project, including from recent activations, studies, simulation exercises, and capacity development processes in DRC and Rwanda.
- Strengthen regional coordination by reviewing existing coordination structures for AA across the Great Lakes and identifying gaps and opportunities for more coherent, government-led regional mechanisms.
- Advance technical harmonisation on early warning systems, impact-based forecasting, trigger thresholds, and vulnerability assessment approaches across the region, building on project technical products.
- Address AA in complex multi-risk and displacement contexts, sharing lessons learned and practical approaches to inclusive, protection-sensitive AA design and delivery specific to the Great Lakes.
- Define a regional agenda for the next phase of anticipatory action across the Great Lakes, including priority actions on institutionalisation, financing, and localisation for follow-up beyond the current project.

4. Thematic focus areas

Given the one-day format, the day is structured around three substantive sessions. Each session combines brief presentations with facilitated group discussion; the final session includes a co-drafting exercise to agree the main messages to be taken forward.

Session 1: Progress, lessons and evidence from the ECHO Great Lakes Project (0900–1045)

This opening session provides space for consortium partners and national counterparts to present and discuss key achievements and lessons from project implementation in DRC and Rwanda. It serves as the shared evidence base for the rest of the day.

Key discussion points:

- Progress on multi-hazard AA framework and AAP development in DRC and Rwanda, including trigger development and validation, composite vulnerability assessment, and CGP integration.
- Lessons from simulation exercises (SIMEXs) and, where relevant, live activations: what worked operationally, what required adaptation, and what gaps remain.



- Government ownership and institutional capacity: how the project has contributed to national AA systems, and where further investment is needed
- Evidence on effectiveness: what the project has demonstrated about the value of early action in the Great Lakes context.

Session 2: Technical harmonisation – early warning, triggers, and multi-hazard systems (1100–1230)

This session examines the technical foundations of multi-hazard AA in the Great Lakes, with a focus on cross-border dimensions and the practical challenges of harmonising systems across diverse national contexts. ICPAC will anchor the regional early warning and climate services perspective.

Key discussion points:

- State of national meteorological and hydrological services across the Great Lakes, and gaps in regional data sharing and joint forecasting.
- Progress on multi-hazard trigger and threshold harmonisation, including impact-based forecasting and composite vulnerability approaches, and lessons from validation processes in DRC and Rwanda.
- Opportunities for integrating climate, displacement, and public health early warning information to support multi-hazard AA.
- Cross-border coordination mechanisms: joint protocols, data sharing arrangements, and the delineation of roles and responsibilities across agencies and countries.

Session 3: Institutionalisation, financing, and the path forward (1330–1500)

The final session looks beyond the current project, examining what is required to transition from project-based implementation to government-owned, institutionalised AA systems across the Great Lakes. It will include a co-drafting exercise to agree on the key messages and priority actions to be captured in the GLDAA summary.

Key discussion points:

- Status of national AA institutionalisation in DRC, Rwanda, and other Great Lakes countries, including integration into national DRR frameworks, contingency plans, and budgets.
- Inclusive and protection-sensitive AA: practical approaches to ensuring AA systems are accessible to and protective of the most vulnerable, drawing on CGP findings and lessons from the region.
- Financing architecture: opportunities for leveraging climate finance, social protection systems, and regional mechanisms; cost-effectiveness evidence from the project; and pathways to reduce dependency on external project funding.
- The role of regional bodies, including ICPAC, in anchoring regional AA coordination for the longer term.
- Shared priorities and advocacy messages for the next phase.

5. Expected outcomes

The Great Lakes Regional Day will produce the following outcomes:

- Shared regional stocktake of progress and remaining gaps in AA across the Great Lakes, drawing on ECHO project experience and broader partner inputs.
- Technical recommendations on harmonisation of early warning systems, trigger thresholds, and multi-hazard approaches across the region.



- Agreed set of priority actions and advocacy messages for the next phase of AA in the Great Lakes, to be captured in a concise GLDAA summary document and, where relevant, fed into the EADP-2 Regional Declaration.
- Strengthened relationships and coordination among Great Lakes partners – governments, UN agencies, Red Cross Red Crescent, and other partners – to support more coherent, jointly owned regional AA systems.

6. Format and modalities

The GLDAA will be a one-day in-person event held on 31 October 2026 at the EADP-2 venue in Mombasa, immediately following the main platform. The programme runs from 0900 to 1500, incorporating a tea break and a lunch break.

The day will be structured around three thematic sessions combining brief presentations with facilitated group discussion (see Section 4). The final session will include a co-drafting exercise to produce the GLDAA summary. The event will be co-facilitated by ECHO GL Consortium partners and ICPAC, with active engagement from national government focal points. ICPAC will take the lead on inviting and coordinating participation of national government counterparts from across the Great Lakes countries.

The event will be conducted in English. **The possibility of French interpretation to be confirmed.**

6. Participants

Approximately 40 participants are expected, drawn from:

- National disaster management and meteorological authorities from DRC, Rwanda, Congo Brazzaville, Tanzania, Burundi and Uganda
- FAO country and regional teams (RTEA)
- WFP country and regional teams
- IFRC and National Red Cross Societies from the region
- Other humanitarian and development partners active in AA and disaster preparedness in the Great Lakes
- DG ECHO
- Anticipation Hub

7. Costs

Costs for the venue and refreshments will be covered by the ECHO Great Lakes Regional Disaster Preparedness Project. Sponsored participants will have their accommodation costs covered by the ECHO Great Lakes project – other participants are expected to cover their own travel and accommodation costs, consistent with the arrangements for EADP-2.

8. Linkages to ECHO Great Lakes workstreams

The GLDAA sits at the intersection of all four Results of the ECHO Great Lakes Regional Disaster Preparedness Project and is designed to serve a consolidating and forward-looking function across them:

- **Result 1 (Coordinated regional multi-hazard AA approaches):** Session 1 will present and discuss progress on the regional multi-hazard guidance, trigger harmonisation methodology, and information management system developed under Result 1. Session 2 will directly build on



Result 1 technical products, engaging regional and national counterparts in reviewing and strengthening them.

- **Result 2 (National multi-hazard AA systems at scale):** Session 1 will draw on evidence generated from AA framework and AAP development and, where activated, operational delivery in the pilot countries (DRC and Rwanda). Participants from both countries will present progress on national-level trigger development, protocol establishment, and SIMEX outcomes, providing illustrative material and cross-country learning.
- **Result 3 (Financing instruments aligned to support scaled AA):** Session 3 will engage with the financing architecture analysis and cost-effectiveness evidence developed under Result 3, including the layering study and business case for multi-agency, multi-hazard AA. The GLDAA provides a key opportunity to validate findings and build a shared regional advocacy position on anticipatory financing.
- **Result 4 (Protection sensitivity and displacement integrated in AA frameworks):** Session 1 will present CGP analysis findings and their integration into AA plans and SOPs in DRC and Rwanda.