

1st Regional Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action for West and Central Africa

Anticipatory action: towards a concerted and progressive approach
28-30 October 2025, Senegal

Concept note

Background

The region of West and Central Africa is currently facing a combination of humanitarian crises of unprecedented complexity and frequency. These crises, which are multiple and interconnected, are taking place in a context of growing structural vulnerability. Risk factors – including climate change, political instability, food insecurity, forced displacement and pandemics – are intertwined and mutually reinforcing, exacerbating humanitarian needs and further weakening communities.

The latest analyses of climate and humanitarian resilience reveal a significant increase in extreme weather events in the region. Devastating floods, prolonged droughts, heat waves, violent winds and disease outbreaks are becoming more frequent, directly affecting the livelihoods and security of the most vulnerable populations.

At the same time, ongoing armed conflicts in several countries in the region are exacerbating these challenges. They are hindering access to humanitarian aid, disrupting basic services and forcing millions of people to flee their homes. Added to this are population displacements caused by climate shocks such as floods, droughts and coastal erosion, which are forcing many families to abandon their land and livelihoods. These dual pressures – security and environmental – significantly increase the vulnerability of communities and complicate the implementation of an effective humanitarian response. It also compromises food security, public health and long-term social stability.

Faced with this reality, there is an urgent need for a proactive and coordinated approach. Thanks to advances in weather forecasting and risk analysis, it is now possible to anticipate certain disasters and their humanitarian impacts with increasing accuracy. However, the resources allocated to anticipatory action remain marginal, accounting for barely 1 per cent of global humanitarian funding.¹

It is therefore imperative to strengthen early warning mechanisms and pre-positioned

¹ 35 billion US dollars was spent on humanitarian action in 2024 (source: fts.unocha.org), compared to 250 million US dollars spent on anticipatory action (source: Anticipation Hub. *Anticipatory Action in 2024: A Global Overview*. Berlin: Anticipation Hub, 2025).

funding to enable rapid, dignified and effective action. The 1st Regional Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action for West and Central Africa brings together humanitarian actors, governments, regional institutions and communities around a common vision: a better prepared, more resilient West and Central Africa that can respond to crises before they become disasters.

Objectives of the platform

The 1st Regional Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action for West and Central Africa aims to bring together those with a common interest in mitigating the impacts of shocks on vulnerable populations before they occur. Discussions during the platform will focus on two specific objectives:

- 1. Assess the challenges, achievements and opportunities for anticipatory action in West and Central Africa.** Before defining common priorities or harmonizing individual visions, it is necessary to take stock of the current situation, learn from our experiences, both good and bad, and highlight opportunities to improve our commitments in the complex contexts of the region.
- 2. Formulate concrete recommendations for stakeholders working in the field of anticipatory action.** After identifying the strengths and weaknesses in the region, there is an opportunity to agree on concrete recommendations for all stakeholders – governments, civil society organizations (CSOs), international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, United Nations, donors – with the aim of putting the region on the global stage for anticipatory action and, above all, enable the effective operationalization of the efforts undertaken.

Expected results

1. Experiences in anticipatory action are shared and synthesized to inform guidelines and determine priorities for the West and Central African regions.
2. Recommendations are made to all stakeholders to scale up anticipatory action in West and Central Africa.

Format and modalities

- This will mainly be an in-person event, with plenary sessions held in a hybrid format.
- The audience will include about 100 national authorities and technical services, CSOs, national and international NGOs, and technical and financial partners at the national and regional levels in West and Central Africa.
- It will be organized around two sub-themes, through plenary sessions and parallel sessions.

Costs

Participants are responsible for their own participation costs. The organizing team will cover the conference package, including coffee breaks, lunches and dinners.

Organization

The 1st Regional Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action for West and Central Africa is hosted by the Anticipation Hub, a joint initiative of the German Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Climate Centre. It is organized through the West and Central Africa Anticipatory Action Task Force under the leadership of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (*Comité permanent inter-État de lutte contre la sécheresse au Sahel*) in collaboration with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Start Network, the Danish Refugee Council, the International Rescue Committee, Welthungerhilfe and the African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development.

Partners



The Anticipation Hub is an initiative of



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