



REPORT

from the 10th Global Dialogue Platform
on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action

Lessons from anticipatory action:
are we getting it right?

6 to 8 December 2022



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Further details about the 10th Global Dialogue Platform, including the full agenda, speakers and participant list, are available on the event website. Registered participants can also watch many of the sessions here: tinyurl.com/2s3tscme

Acronyms and abbreviations

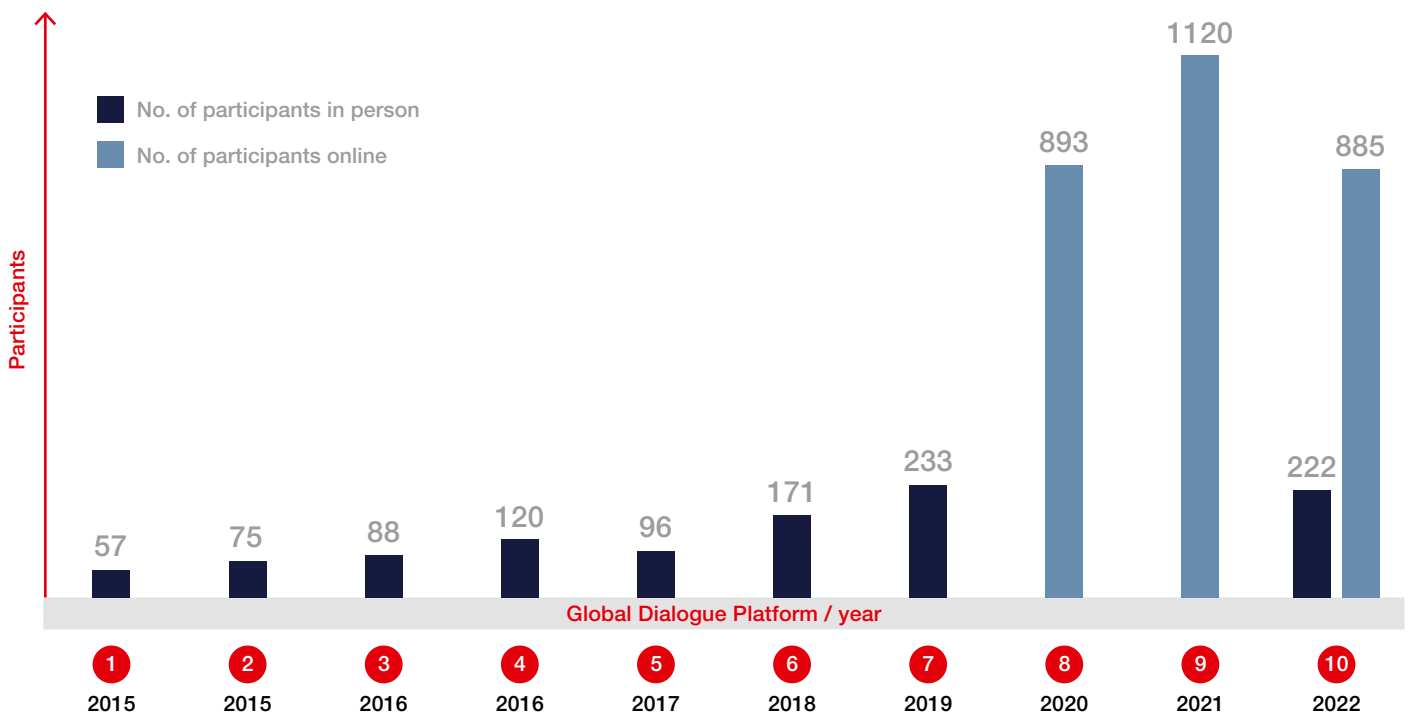
AHA Centre	ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management	ICPAC	IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
COP	Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
DRM	disaster risk management	kph	kilometres per hour
DRR	disaster risk reduction	NGO	non-governmental organization
EAP	early action protocol	OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
EWEA	early warning early action	REAP	Risk-informed Early Action Partnership
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	SADC	Southern African Development Community
FEWS	flood early warning system	UN	United Nations
FOREWARN	Forecast-based, Warning, Analysis, and Response Network	UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
G7	Group of Seven	WFP	World Food Programme

Highlights from the 10th Global Dialogue Platform

More people

In 2022, it was the 10th edition of the Global Dialogue Platform – a chance to reflect on how much this event has grown in just seven years. The first event was held “in a dark room at the German Red Cross, talking about this strange new thing,” recalled **Christof Johnen**, German Red Cross, during his opening talk. There were just 57 people at that first event; in 2022, the first fully hybrid event, 222 people gathered in Berlin and a further 885 took part online.¹ The expansion of anticipatory action is reflected by the growing community who meet each year at these dialogue platforms.

Figure 1. The growth of the Global Dialogue Platforms, 2015–2022



¹ 109 in-person participants also registered online.



An engaging plenary session at the 10th Global Dialogue Platform.

More diversity

People from 136 countries registered for this year's Global Dialogue Platform, representing more than 600 organizations.² This diversity within the anticipatory action community – comprising humanitarians, scientists, researchers, volunteers, practitioners, the private sector, governments and donors – reflects the increasing knowledge and experience about what is, even now, a comparatively new humanitarian approach. And by coming together each year to share lessons and ideas – about what worked and what didn't – the anticipatory action community is building the evidence needed to scale up this approach even further. The widespread representation at the 10th Global Dialogue Platform confirmed that these events are now a major fixture in the anticipatory action calendar.

More sessions

The 10th Global Dialogue Platform was the biggest to date in terms of the number of sessions available to participants. There were 40 parallel sessions, keynotes and plenaries, and, to enable as many people as possible to share their experiences, there were also 16 side events held alongside the main programme. These showcased numerous country case studies and explored a range of cross-cutting themes, such as the scientific evidence for cash transfers and how to minimize the impacts of predictable hazards on children.

² These figures are taken from all registered participants, not those who actually participated; due to data-protection rules, we are unable to provide a more detailed breakdown. These figures should therefore only be used as indicators, not exact figures.

Some critical reflection

It's easy – and important – to talk about the successes: the projects that went well, or the activations that were made in time. But the Global Dialogue Platforms are also an opportunity to review what didn't work, so that people can learn from mistakes and improve this approach. This year's event took stock of the sector and asked: are we getting anticipatory action right? The aim was not to reach a definitive answer, but rather to look in depth at what is working and where things need to change. The answers to this question, provided during the many sessions, will provide the basis to refine and improve anticipatory action in the coming years. And the core question will remain a critical part of future dialogue platforms, from 11 to 20 and beyond!

More evidence and clearer terminology are still needed

Alongside the progress achieved so far, there were also challenges highlighted across the three days. One of these is the evidence base for anticipatory action: while this is growing, many key actors – governments and donors, but also communities and humanitarian practitioners – still need more to justify shifting from hazard response to anticipation. Another common request was for clearer terminology within the sector, which will make it easier to communicate the benefits of this approach. These and other challenges identify the areas to focus efforts in 2023.



In-person participants at the Global Dialogue Platform.

10th Global Dialogue Platform
on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action

DAY ONE

Opening session

It's a milestone! In 2022, the Anticipation Hub hosted the 10th Global Dialogue Platform, and there was even one participant, Alexandra Rüth, who had been at each of the previous nine. Formally opening this year's proceedings, **Kara Siahaan**, Anticipation Hub, shared a selection of images from each of the past events to demonstrate how this forum for discussion and advocacy has changed over the years.

Changed, and grown. Over 1,800 people registered for the event in 2022, demonstrating that the anticipatory action community is growing. People joined online from all corners of the world, from Australia to Zimbabwe, as well as more than 200 people who gathered in Berlin.

Christof Johnen, German Red Cross, has been to nine platforms and was at the first event, held in 2015 in a basement at the German Red Cross headquarters. "We were in a dark room, talking about this strange new thing," he recalled. "And now there is more and more interest in this approach... Today I can really feel the energy in the room among us." Christof also thanked the German Federal Foreign Office for being there from the start and providing continuous support for anticipatory action: "We are often critical of donors, but this was a courageous and brave move, to take a risk on this approach."

Deike Potzel, German Federal Foreign Office, was at her first Global Dialogue Platform. This event plays a central convening role in the anticipatory action calendar, and she acknowledged the high number of participants in the room and online. She also noted its growth, from a small number of German Red Cross projects to an approach applied in more and more countries, and by a growing number of organizations. "The results we see confirm the potential of these projects, showing that anticipatory action is much more effective and dignified for people in need."

This growth is underpinned by donor support, and Germany has committed to spending 5 per cent of its humanitarian budget for 2023 on anticipatory action. This theme also played a key role in the Group of Seven (G7) statement in 2022, which acknowledged its importance and pledged to increase commitments to this approach: meanwhile, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly has also acknowledged the need to support anticipatory action. "But we are only scratching the surface," she said. "Only 1-2 per cent of humanitarian funding is spent in an anticipatory manner. Much more needs to be done – and can be done. We need to move from piloting to mainstreaming."



Christof Johnen.



You can rewatch the opening session, and many other sessions from the Global Dialogue Platform, on the event website: tinyurl.com/2s3tscme

Caroline Holt, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), was also at her first Global Dialogue Platform, but could already feel the passion and enthusiasm for this approach. She credited the sector's willingness to ask difficult questions, such as whether we are getting it right. She also highlighted how local actors are critical to this approach. To this end, the IFRC has been adjusting its funding mechanisms to make it even easier for local actors to act before a hazard, for example by simplifying the early action protocol (EAP) system so that more National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies can develop these. More than 50 societies already use this tool, and many more are making preparations to do so.

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A major milestone for the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement was the Council of Delegates Resolution on strengthening anticipatory action, endorsed by our 192 National Societies this year.

Caroline Holt, IFRC

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The World Food Programme (WFP) was present at the first Global Dialogue Platform, and it continues to play a central role as a co-organizer. **Martin Frick**, WFP Global Office Berlin, focused on one of the main reasons why WFP and others do this: the fact that there are more and more people facing hunger each year, with 349 million acutely hungry people in the world in 2022. “We know that the numbers continuously go up and up,” he said. “This makes it vitally important to find innovative instruments to help the people we pledged to support.”

To do this, WFP is strengthening the evidence base to show donors why the anticipatory approach works and to what extent. It is also scaling up this approach, not least thanks to the German Federal Foreign Office's commitment to allocate 5 per cent of its humanitarian funding for this approach.

Rein Paulsen, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), rounded off the opening session by noting the partnerships that underpin the growth seen in anticipatory action. FAO implements this approach ahead of food crises, where it is critical in alleviating hunger: “This is the reason FAO stated an ambition, with the help of partners, to dedicate up to 20 per cent of emergency resilience financing to anticipatory action by 2025. It's an ambitious target, but it is important that we make these commitments and work towards them.”

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We have come a long way in making anticipation an integral part of how we manage risks, but challenges remain. The next three days are integral in finding solutions.

Rein Paulsen, FAO

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Ignite talks

A series of Ignite talks provided a quickfire review of the year and some of the main lessons learned during the past 12 months. **Alejandro Terán Tobar**, German Red Cross, and **Veronica Rivera**, Guatemala Red Cross, reported on Hurricane Julia, which saw the first EAPs activated for floods in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, in Guatemala and Honduras. Both countries learned a lot, such as the need for more time to sensitize and socialize local Red Cross branches about this process. Overall, though, the activation was a success and helped people to prepare for the coming hazard: “We got there – in time!”

Nitesh Shrestha, WFP Nepal, explained how the coping strategies used by flood-affected households in Nepal changed thanks to anticipatory action. For example, the number of people borrowing food or relying on help from friends and relatives declined from 54 per cent (baseline) to 6.28 per cent after a cash distribution. These encouraging results were seen across the strategies observed.

Following this, **Susan Njambi-Szlapka**, Start Network, reported on the first year of Start Ready, a new funding mechanism for anticipatory action. What makes this mechanism unique is the ability to pool funds from different pots; for a particular country or hazard, for example: “This allows us to move money from one pot to another, moving funds to where they are needed as quickly as possible, covering more crises and supporting more people.” In 2022, funds were triggered for a heat wave in Pakistan, among others, and Start Network was able to reach more than 3 million people to relieve the worst effects of the heat.

During her Ignite talk, **Regina Omlor**, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), explained how in Malawi, OCHA works with Africa Risk Capacity to test and develop insurance products for anticipatory action. The pilot project targeted dry spells and included a hybrid trigger that incorporates forecasts for rainfall with observations of actual rainfall, and triggers actions that help people cope with dry spells as they occur. The insurance products being developed will help people to cope; for example, early payouts for failed crops, such as those made during the sowing window, help people to cope better than paying out at the end of the season, which is what usually happens.

The final talk, by **Siphokazi Moloinyane**, FAO, looked at the Grand Sud region in Madagascar. In 2021, several districts were facing severe food insecurity and malnutrition, driven by factors including Covid-19 and years of low production. On top of these, seven districts were warned of a coming locust infestation which would destroy crops and livestock pastures, threatening the livelihoods of up to 1 million people. To protect them, FAO triggered financing to support measures including locust surveillance and control operations. These actions avoided the worst impacts of the locust infestation while also improving people’s skills for the future (e.g., in ground-spraying techniques).



Siphokazi Moloinyane.



Alfredo Mahar Lagmay.

A review of the year: forecasts

Anticipatory action couldn't function without forecasts, which provide the information for triggering actions ahead of climate- and weather-related hazards. The opening keynote of the Global Dialogue Platform, prepared by **Liz Stephens**, University of Reading/Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, and delivered by **Alfredo Mahar Lagmay**, University of the Philippines Resilience Institute, reviewed the past 12 months in weather forecasts.

He highlighted some of the challenges of using forecasts for anticipatory action. For example, the track of Typhoon Rai³ (December 2021, the Philippines) was well forecast, with minimal errors in tracking where it would land. However, it intensified rapidly in the four hours before landfall, reaching speeds of up to 195 kilometres per hour (kph) between 12:00 and 04:00 on 16 December, while the initial prediction was for speeds of between 130-140kph. Forecasts for other cyclones, for example those in southern Africa in January and February, also failed to predict this rapid intensification.

The floods in Sylhet, Bangladesh, in June 2022 were also a challenge for forecasters. Rapid rises in water levels over three days, along with other factors (e.g., the severity of the wind), were underestimated. This highlighted a lack of understanding of the extremity of the event and, as people hadn't experienced floods of this scale recently, there was a relative lack of preparedness among much of the affected population.

Ahead of Hurricane Ian (September 2022, Caribbean), one of the worst-affected districts did not follow evacuation plans, acting too late and resulting in deaths. But ahead of Hurricane Julia (October, Central America) the forecasts performed well, enabling EAPs to be activated two days in advance of the resultant floods.

So, what are the conclusions from 2022? That many extreme events are getting stronger, making it harder to forecast effectively. While the signals are often reliable, the scale is becoming greater. The impacts, whether from rampaging floods or intensifying typhoons, are increasingly challenging. Despite progress in forecasting, we need to improve the science even further to be able to anticipate better.

³ This was known as Super Typhoon Odette in the Philippines.

Scaling up anticipatory action: challenges and opportunities

To close the opening day, a guest panel considered some of the opportunities to scale up anticipatory action and the challenges we face in doing so. Below is a selection of their suggestions, alongside contributions from online participants.

According to **Loretta Girardet**, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), a major opportunity lies in doing more to embed anticipatory action in policies, programmes and legislation for disaster risk reduction (DRR), for example doing so more systematically in targets for DRR. A second opportunity lies in the move towards comprehensive risk management: breaking down silos and using the whole system to tackle the climate emergency: “Anticipatory action needs to be understood as a part of this, and we need to increase the understanding of risk across the humanitarian sector, and how it can work to better mitigate these risks.”

Challenges include that old favourite, which has surely cropped up at all of the past Global Dialogue Platforms: financing. We live in a world of fragmented financing, Loretta noted, and we need to look beyond humanitarian financing to scale up anticipatory action. For example, how can climate financing be used to inform this approach?

Anticipatory action is another approach in the humanitarian toolbox, anchored in many high-level bodies and statements. And we are learning more all the time, noted **Lisa Doughten**, OCHA: “There is a growing body of knowledge and evidence about what works and what doesn't.” These resources are, in themselves, an opportunity to advocate for scaling up by indicating what is possible. So, what do we need to achieve this? More predictable financing is one area, as well as using what we have in different ways. There is also a need for early warnings to reach the most vulnerable people, which means making these systems more localized.

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We need to 'walk the talk' when we talk about financing of [anticipatory action]. The fund[s], even from the donor community, [are] still very low, and there is a lot of scrutiny and bureaucracy in accessing these funds, which reduces the window of opportunity to act in advance.

Molly Saja, Kenya Red Cross Society, session chat

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We are producing a lot of information and data, but who is using this? We need to use this with partners, affected populations. [Anticipatory action and] EAPs create an opportunity for complementarity between partners.

Alexei Castro, Honduran Red Cross

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Asia is a disaster-prone region, with climate change affecting how and where hazards strike. And forecasting capacities are under stress: weather systems change even as the forecasts improve. This presents a lot of challenges for anticipatory action. The answer? Innovate and collaborate. **LA Dimailig**, ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), shared how the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has shared agreements on how to operate its work programme, which includes anticipatory action.



LA Dimailig.

But there are challenges here, too, such as different understandings of the term, and even the different terms used. The *ASEAN Framework on Anticipatory Action* was a step forward here, providing a single regional definition for this approach. Several partners worked on this and, with these partners, ASEAN is now testing different concepts to see what works in the region. Moving forward, ASEAN will review trigger mechanisms for disasters to see where anticipatory action can fit in, a process that will involve all ASEAN states.

Victoria Jacobsson, government of Sweden, then provided a donor perspective. Anticipatory action represents a major opportunity in the humanitarian sphere: it saves lives, it is cost-effective and it is more dignified. And this is urgently needed. In Somalia, for example, there are severe losses and damages, which show that current systems are not enough: “We have to build resilience and build climate-adaptive societies.” Sweden is looking at ways to make its aid more preventative, and anticipatory action is a way to do so.

And the challenges? “From a donor perspective, we have to see how we mainstream this into our policies and our processes and budgets,” Victoria noted. How do we actually make this happen? What kind of financing do we have, and which mechanisms? And how can these be stepped up?



A plenary session at the Global Dialogue Platform.

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A constraint to [anticipatory action] in development programmes is the inflexibility of donor funding – when will donors agree to accept multihazard crisis modifiers to facilitate adaptive management in response to early warning in all their development funding?
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Richard Ewbank, Christian Aid,
session chat

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DAY TWO

Dear anticipation friends... some reflections



Maarten van Aalst.

The second keynote address came from an old friend of the anticipatory action movement, **Maarten van Aalst**, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, who was recently appointed as director general of the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute. The world has changed a lot since the first Global Dialogue Platform, he noted, as has forecast-based financing, which has been completely transformed from something that was pretty much non-existent ten years ago: “We need to thank the donors for enabling this to happen.”

But over the same period, the risks have been rising and the extremes have got more extreme. Expectations of anticipatory action have risen as well. This was evident at the recent COP27, where the Early Warning for All initiative was launched and there was finally an agreement on sustained funding for loss and damage. However, “we need discussions on how we ‘beef up’ the existing mechanisms to support vulnerable people,” Maarten said. “There is now a risk that if we don’t deliver at scale, the world will be disappointed. This requires us to work together and go beyond the humanitarian world.”

He observed that many hazards now play out in contexts of high vulnerability, with weather- and climate-related risks being compounded by factors such as conflict and disease. This is one area where things have moved rapidly in recent years, and he offered some guidance for where we go next: “We need to remain scientifically rigorous – but we should also keep things simple. Some of our initial pilots [ten years ago] were extremely complex and small scale; we need this [anticipatory] approach to be made simpler, and to be implemented by more than just the enthusiasts.”

Ignite from the Dominican Republic

An Ignite talk from **Graciela Elvira Pérez Tolentino**, WFP, looked at some of the essential components for successful anticipatory action, drawing on experiences from the Dominican Republic. She noted the importance of knowing the needs of communities during times of crisis, as well as ways to help them understand the early activities they were part of: “We support them with information and education on risks and warnings.” Another issue to consider is the human and material losses people may have suffered as a result of climate shocks, which could include an increase in hunger and poverty: “Be attendant to all the parts of the community, not just what is put in the paper [plans].”

Facts and myths: the ‘real’ story behind the anticipatory action movement

For centuries, owls have represented knowledge and wisdom, and this session was a chance to guess who are the ‘wise old owls’ of anticipatory action. Hosts **Stephanie Lux**, German Red Cross, and **Urbe Secades**, WFP, introduced a Mentimeter quiz in which the audience guessed which ‘owl’ would appear on stage. First to be revealed was **Mathieu Destrooper**, German Red Cross; next was **Luca Parodi**, FAO, followed by **Maurine Ambani**, WFP, and **Pramila Subedi**, Start Fund. Completing the parliament of owls was **Irene Amuron**, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre.



Luca Parodi appears.

Next, it was time to test the owls against the audience: who knew the most about anticipatory action? Each owl shared five lessons from work in their region and challenged the participants to identify the ‘wrong’ lesson from the list. And the final scores? A slim victory for the owls over the audience. But the closeness of the results paid tribute to the wealth of wisdom within this community.

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The lessons shared during the session, from the owls and from the audience, will be used to create a piece of artwork that will be presented at the next Global Dialogue Platform.



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After three years of Covid, it's nice to see so many familiar faces again.

Luca Parodi, FAO

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The way we learn here [at the Global Dialogue Platforms], by having fun... from the cartoon postcards to the anticipation dance... that's another important lesson for me over the last ten years. This interaction is so valuable.

Matthias Amling, Welthungerhilfe

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Are we getting it right?

Despite the strong recent growth in anticipatory action, there continue to be missed opportunities when it comes to delivering this approach and, in some cases, there remain diverging ideas about what it really means. Critical reflection is necessary to establish what needs to be done and ensure we deliver at the right time, space and scale. With that in mind, this panel session tackled the overarching question for this Global Dialogue Platform: are we getting it right?

Caroline Holt, IFRC, remarked that the appetite for anticipatory action has grown rapidly over the years, with more countries and organizations now developing protocols and action plans to implement this approach. These have been activated several times, including several cases in 2022, and we continue to learn from these experiences: both in cases where triggers are met but the hazard doesn't materialize, such as with floods in Uganda, or when the triggers were not met but the hazard struck, for example with Typhoon Rai in the Philippines.

Learning and sharing is at the heart of what we do, she noted, to help us understand what works and what doesn't. For example, we learned that pre-selecting areas for intervention is important, which is why impact-based forecasting is increasingly used. We have also learnt there is a need for flexibility in approaches to deal with rapidly changing hazards. And we need contingency and flexibility in funding too, so that even when triggers are not met, we can still support those people affected.



The Global Dialogue Platform.

Next, **Martin Ndiwa Talian**, National Disaster Operations Center and the senior assistant secretary for disaster risk management (DRM) within the government of Kenya, spoke from the governmental perspective. What has been learnt in Kenya? What is not going to plan and how can we address these challenges?

“As a government, there are so many ways to integrate and mainstream anticipatory action,” he noted. For example, the Kenyan government has been steering the anticipatory action agenda by developing EAPs for drought and floods in cooperation with the Kenya Red Cross Society. But there are many other anticipatory action initiatives being established in the country. In light of this, the government is developing an anticipatory action roadmap for Kenya to harmonize all the issues they want to deal with. “In our Vision 2030, we are already looking at how we can integrate anticipatory action into the development planning process,” he explained. “This is vital, as planning informs budgeting.” These efforts are also reaching down to the local level, where the government works with county-level governments to implement this agenda.

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I think Kenya is going to be where our future lessons come from! Kenya is on the road to getting it right.

Irene Amuron, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

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Irene Amuron.



REAP presents its parallel session.

Parallel sessions

The growth of the Global Dialogue Platforms reflects a more significant trend: the expansion of anticipatory action as a core humanitarian approach. This was reflected in the diversity of themes covered during the parallel sessions that took place on days two and three, which provided insights into the wealth of contexts and hazards for which this approach is now being tested and applied.



Full details of all the parallel sessions, including the speakers, are available on the event website:

tinyurl.com/2s3tscme

What makes climate-sensitive infectious diseases more or less suitable for an anticipatory action approach?

This interactive session critically reflected on the criteria that make different infectious diseases more or less suited to an anticipatory action approach. It considered both the intrinsic qualities of different infectious diseases and the necessary enabling environment.

How far have we come? An assessment of early action in 2022

Early action initiatives are being implemented across the globe. However, more work needs to be done to establish an effective evidence base, one from which lessons can be drawn about what works, what doesn't, and what is still needed to take early action to the scale demanded by the increasing impacts of climate change. In 2022, the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP) published its flagship report,

Early Action: The State of Play 2021, to contribute to that evidence base. During this session, participants heard the initial findings from *Early Action: The State of Play 2022* and provided their expertise and insights to help shape the emerging themes and recommendations for scaling up early action in 2023.

Linking anticipatory action and disaster risk financing

What are the opportunities to link anticipatory action and disaster risk financing? Where can these two communities work better together? Dissecting some of the entry points has been the core topic of the Anticipation Hub's Sectoral Community on Linking Risk Financing to Anticipatory Action, and in this interactive speed-talk session, they presented some of the ideas published in its compendium, to establish what resonated with the audience and what didn't, preparing the ground for a work plan in 2023.

Flexible pillars: the value of blending anticipatory action approaches

The *Glossary of Early Action Terms* outlines two main approaches to anticipatory action: the better-known approach with three pillars (predefined risk analytics and thresholds; pre-positioned financing; predetermined action plans) and the less-structured approach that is based on expert decision-making to trigger actions. This session asked: what is the potential to blend these approaches? To open the debate, Start Network presented a case study in which it aimed to blend elements of both approaches to anticipate tropical cyclones in Madagascar using the Start Fund. This was followed by a discussion of what the opportunities and pitfalls of blending these approaches could be.

Can anticipatory action help in mitigating wicked crises? Lessons from the Somalia drought, 2020–current

The national emergency declared in Somalia at the end of 2021 developed slowly as several shocks combined: locusts, the economic impacts of Covid-19 and three successive poor rainy seasons. Other, more local shocks, such as riverine floods, exacerbated difficulties further. This crisis has been developing since 2020, leading many to argue that more could have been done in advance to prevent things reaching such a serious situation. This session discussed if such anticipatory action is feasible and can be effective in such large-scale crises caused by multiple shocks, what its role should be, and the extent to which expectations of anticipatory action are realistic.

There was a particular consideration of the actions people (wish to) take on their own terms to mitigate crises, and whether anticipatory action can be designed to better support peoples' own agency during crises. The starting point here was the experiences of pastoralists and farmers in Somalia who have lived through a range of shocks over the past two to three years. These stories highlighted how people have responded to the developing situation, as well as the constraints that they faced in better preparing for and mitigating the evolving crises.

Communicating science and community validation: learning from FOREWARN

Start Network's Forecast-based, Warning, Analysis, and Response Network (FOREWARN) aims to identify the high-quality hazard and risk information produced and shared by scientists and experts, and to operationalize this information to improve the quality of anticipation work. In this session, a panel of four national FOREWARN coordinators shared what they had learnt from communicating science to practitioners. They highlighted key achievements, including the Madagascar cyclone anticipation pilot and anticipatory activities for heat waves in Pakistan.

The conversation then turned into a discussion about the value of both scientific analysis and community validation being used in tandem for anticipatory action; recent work engaging a community to read rain gauges to monitor the probability of landslides in Bangladesh was highlighted. The panel went on to talk about challenges for communicating scientific information to practitioners, with a focus on a recent scientific colloquium hosted by FOREWARN in the Philippines to try to resolve these challenges.

Finally, the panellists discussed the opportunities that anticipatory action offers for engaging communities, such as there being more time available for meaningful consultation. However, they stressed the importance of managing expectations around forecasts, as communities' confidence in anticipatory action can be undermined when events do not occur as forecast, or when they occur and have not been forecast.

When multiple risks collide: let's experience it!

In this energetic session, participants were immersed in a role-play exercise, which led to an open and constructive discussion about managing the compounding risks of natural and biological hazards, displacement, conflict and violence. Participants talked about the possibilities and impossibilities of anticipatory action, and how risks can be managed in a layered approach to support communities that are likely to experience complex crises.

How do I know? I live here! Making local data available and giving meaning to data for more informed decision-making

Who is involved when decisions are made and what information is available to them? This session looked at recent advances in the accuracy and reliability of information, for example where cloud computing allows impact-based forecasts of flood inundation on continental scales alongside analysis of the impacts at a local scale. Combining this data with local information on vulnerability, such as critical infrastructure, allows investigation of the impacts.

This session also considered community-based data collection. Modelling and forecasting provide a global overview, but require local contexts and data to ‘ground truth’ these. Local communities often have valuable, hyper-local knowledge of the place in which they live. By capturing and sharing this local knowledge, they can contribute to and access up-to-date information for anticipatory action, becoming more aware of risks and more resilient in the process. However, while there are increasing efforts and demand for community engagement and accountability, this is not yet common practice.

Protection, gender and inclusion in anticipatory action: a year of cross-organizational exchange and learning

Since the last Global Dialogue Platform, the member organizations of the Protection, Gender and Inclusion in Anticipatory Action Working Group have focused on cross-sectoral awareness-raising and collating lessons learned. During this interactive and intergenerational session, these lessons were shared, allowing for collective reflection and innovations, which were captured to inform the sector’s agenda for the future.



Parallel sessions at the 10th Global Dialogue Platform.

Early warnings at scale: how government systems need to support these – a participative scenario to explore responses in a crisis

To be truly effective at scale, early warning systems need to be part of a wider government system, not something that stands alone between a meteorological service and its users. This participatory session explored how governments respond to extreme weather, Covid-19 and other threats to lives and livelihoods in order to identify the components needed for scaling up warnings and responses.

Anticipatory action capacity strengthening in practice

Many organizations are investing in strengthening capacity for anticipatory action at the country level, in a variety of ways. These investments not only enable anticipatory action to happen, but also strengthen preparedness and readiness, and improve overall response capacities. However, there has been little effort thus far to identify the capacities needed for anticipatory action, or to track and measure how anticipatory action programmes contribute to capacity development. This session presented research into the importance of capacity development and provided an overview of two tools to plan and capture capacity development: one developed through a collaboration between WFP and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, and another based on the IFRC's Preparedness for Effective Response approach.

Integrating anticipatory action and social protection: what role can humanitarians play?

In this session, speakers shared insights on integrating anticipatory action and social protection from Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, Lesotho, Namibia, the Philippines and Somalia. Building on feasibility studies and research, they explored how this integration could be locally led, nationally owned and sustainable in the long term: what works and what doesn't, and how successful integration can be achieved.

In Bangladesh, for example, a study is seeking to find entry points to link shock-responsive social protection and anticipatory action. This includes working with different anticipatory action practitioners to integrate shock-responsive social protection into their plans and programmes, and continuing the dialogue with the government. "We are not duplicating, or creating a parallel system; rather, we are trying to complement this huge effort of the government, and trying to find ways to make it work better," noted Sheikh Khairul, German Red Cross, during the discussion.

“

Namibia has one of the most comprehensive social-protection systems in Africa, but these systems are not well aligned to anticipatory action. The way ahead is to work hard to scale social protection systems to reduce impacts on the ground.

Professor Selma Lendelvo,
University of Namibia (via Erin
Coughlan de Perez on Twitter)

”

What have we learned from financing anticipatory action – and what's next?

Much has been said about the need for more funding to scale up anticipatory action. But less has been said about how that funding is used. While more funding is needed, the funding that is available should be used in the most effective and efficient manner to support vulnerable communities. This session focused on the lessons learned from financing anticipatory action, using some guiding questions: what enables anticipatory financing? What needs to be in place for financing to achieve the most impact? What worked? What could be improved? What are the limits? What have we learned about the cost-effectiveness of anticipatory action? How can anticipatory finance support DRR and long-term resilience?

Bringing drought anticipation to scale in the Americas: new opportunities for collaboration

While drought has been discussed at past dialogue platforms, there has been little focus so far on the Americas. With more and more anticipatory action stakeholders working on this hazard in the region, this session allowed practitioners to showcase what they are doing to anticipate this hazard, such as the triggers identified and the forecasts used. The session also asked: which actions are most needed? How can financing be mobilized? What are the plans for collaboration, and could a joint and coordinated activation be possible, as happened for the Bangladesh floods in 2020? The speakers were also put on the spot: what more could their organization do to bring drought anticipation to scale?

Scale up anticipatory action through supporting institutionalization? Perspectives from regional decision-makers

Effectively scaling up anticipatory action, and in a sustainable way, will require an enhanced level of institutionalization. Various encouraging examples exist, at the regional level in particular, where various roadmaps and frameworks have been, or are being, agreed to scale up anticipatory action. This session presented ongoing work, lessons learned and existing challenges around scaling up and supporting the institutionalization of anticipatory action through leadership by regional and national organizations, with experiences from Africa, Asia and Latin America shared by representatives of regional and national organizations.

Digital tools to support anticipatory action: the path to scaling up?

This session took stock of the digital tools and systems available to support anticipatory action. **Francesca Giovinazzo**, ACAPS⁴, explained how the organization's **Risk List** contains information on active (and past) risks, identified by ACAPS analysts, for over a hundred crises worldwide. This includes information on emerging risks, rapid 'marked deteriorations', and the potential impacts on people, the environment and resources. Next, **Jurg Wilbrink**, IFRC, presented Risk Watch, which assists National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies with collecting risk information for several hazards and conflicts in a standardized, low-tech way. Data is accumulated and presented to give evidence of needs in specific regions. Another IFRC tool, **Alert Hub**, uses the Common Alerting Protocol to disseminate visual alerts from National Societies and public entities. The ambition is to integrate this with EAPs in the future.

Martijn Kwant, Deltares, explained how over 30 hydrometeorological agencies and national governments use Delft-FEWS, an open-source flood-forecasting and early warning system that provides actionable information and sends out warnings. It depends on a global community of flood-forecasting practitioners, who co-design the system. **Bouke Pieter Ottow**, 510 – An Initiative of the Netherlands Red Cross, then demonstrated its impact-based forecasting portal, which supports decision-making by disaster managers during anticipatory actions for multiple hazards. The system visualizes the forecast impact using trigger models and keeps track of the actions performed, while also enabling collaboration between stakeholders.

Partnerships and climate change adaptation: linking stakeholders for life-saving adaptation

Extreme events require investment from all stakeholders and this interactive session interrogated the partnerships between them. What roles do academics play in building evidence? Does the public sector's risk landscape anticipate disasters? What is the effectiveness of humanitarian anticipatory action work? The audience heard some 'big ideas' for using anticipatory action systems to build resilience in a changing climate and to communicate about unprecedented events.

⁴ Originally known as the Assessment Capacities Project.

Discussion among the in-person participants.

Report:
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on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action





Streaming sessions live for the online participants.

Anticipating food crises: what does it take?

Acute food insecurity has reached extremely worrying levels globally. According to the *Global Report On Food Crises 2022 Mid-Year Update*, as many as 205.1 million people will face acute hunger in 45 countries. Global humanitarian needs are at an all-time high and continue to grow. One of the solutions identified to break this vicious cycle is anticipating predictable disasters and crises, and acting ahead of time to protect the most vulnerable people. Progress and commitments have been made to scale up anticipatory action to prevent food crises. Yet, despite actions being triggered ahead of these crises, the funds available and the scale of assistance provided are often not yet comparable with the intensity and magnitude of disasters.

Coordination among stakeholders has allowed convergence towards common definitions and joint actions, such as the interagency anticipatory action frameworks facilitated by OCHA in a number of countries. However, for the shift to become truly anticipatory, collective efforts are needed along the humanitarian–development–peace nexus so that anticipatory action is fully mainstreamed within national plans, policies and strategies for DRM and climate change adaptation.

To enable this, it is critical that practitioners and decision-makers have a common understanding, for example: what are principles and criteria of anticipatory action in protracted crises contexts? Do we have a common understanding on the use of food security projections in anticipatory action? Do we agree on suitable approaches to analyse the impact of anticipatory action on food security? Why and how is anticipatory action relevant to operationalize the humanitarian–development–peace nexus in the face of current food insecurity trends? This session shared outcomes from a technical workshop on this issue, held in November 2022 and co-organized by FAO and WFP, in collaboration with the Global Network Against Food Crises.

“
In convincing G7 partners and others with whom we have discussions, it's always a question: so where is the evidence? Especially because there is a huge gap between needs and funds, so every penny we spend on anticipatory action today, we cannot spend on [for example] buying rice. We have to have very good and strong arguments to convince other donors to really invest in anticipatory action.

Ferdinand von Wehye,
German Federal Foreign Office

Anticipatory action at COP28: addressing the climate-fragility nexus

The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance as a result of climate change has rapidly increased in recent years, with expectations of a sharper rise in the near future. Climate impacts, such as droughts, floods, changing rainfall patterns and more extreme and frequent storms, not only create new humanitarian needs, but also exacerbate and protract existing ones. Many of the contexts considered to be most vulnerable and least ready to adapt to climate change also experience conflict or fragility, and have had interagency humanitarian appeals for at least ten consecutive years.

The link between climate change, humanitarian needs and fragility is becoming increasingly acute and has been repeatedly highlighted by affected communities, humanitarian actors and the UN Security Council. The urgent need to support fragile communities in highly climate-affected countries has also been acknowledged in the context of the COP process, notably at COP27.

Bringing together the experience of different actors in this space (humanitarian, climate, peace and security), this session sought to identify deliverables for anticipatory humanitarian action that can respond to climate impacts interlaced with fragility, therefore potentially enabling both resilience and conditions for peace. Specific attention was given to linking last-mile early warning systems with anticipatory action. The aim was to build consensus around a limited number of such deliverables, and the coalitions and initiatives to achieve them, in the lead up towards COP28 in November 2023, as well as the United Arab Emirate's presidency of the UN Security Council in June 2023.

Ministry for the Future: how does the new generation of early warning early action professionals propose to shape this space?

The Anticipation Hub's Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) Future Leaders Network was launched in 2022 and there is significant interest being shown by Anticipation Hub partners and beyond. Early-career professionals are increasingly being valued in this field, and space is open for this group's active participation in decision-making to shape the EWEA agenda. The value of youth and young professionals is in the ideas, energy, commitment and new perspectives that they bring to the table, and increasing the diversity of the space in intergenerational, interregional, and intersectoral ways is essential to the future of EWEA.

What does this emerging generation of leaders see as the problems and questions upcoming in the EWEA space? Where is EWEA headed? How do they propose to shape this? This session, the title of which was inspired by the 2020 climate fiction book *The Ministry for the Future*,

brought diverse voices from across the Future Leader Network to suggest topics for a 'Ministry for the Future of EWEA', offering their expertise and experience for this futuristic vision.

Acting before floods: experience from the activation of anticipatory action initiatives for floods in the Sahel 2022

In September 2022, the Mali Red Cross activated its EAP for Floods when the trigger level for the Bani River was met. Together with its partners, it implemented early actions to reduce the impacts of the upcoming flood. In May 2022, FAO launched anticipatory action initiatives for flood risks in Burkina Faso and Niger. This session introduced the mechanism used and the early actions taken in Mali, presented via a short video made by a film team during those hectic days of the activation. FAO also presented a case study from its Niger activation and the ongoing work to evaluate the action's impact. The focus of the discussion that followed was the challenges experienced during these activations and the lessons drawn that can improve the mechanisms further.

Whose actions? Localizing the anticipatory action agenda

Worldwide, local actors – government and civil society – are the first to respond in crises and, depending on the effectiveness of their response, can save more lives and livelihoods than internationally led efforts. This recognition lay behind the 2016 Grand Bargain commitment to direct 25 per cent of humanitarian funding to local-level actors. For anticipatory action, the window for acting is far too limited to expect effective impacts if they are planned and executed solely by external actors.

However, the Grand Bargain commitment is still a mirage, with less than 2 per cent of global humanitarian funds going to local organizations. Indeed, local actors continue to face several challenges. They function primarily as implementing partners, rather than as planners and decision-makers, as these roles go to the international, national or regional levels. In the humanitarian arena, their voices and expertise go mostly unnoticed or are seemingly taken by their international spokesmen.

This session examined different anticipatory action initiatives that include locally led processes, from countries including Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, the Philippines and Uganda. This included initiatives that fund the creation of community-designed assets, or those with built-in flexibility for decisions at the local level. Overall, the discussion looked at how anticipatory action can be grounded at the local level and be led, in the long run, by actively engaged local actors.



Parallel sessions at the Global Dialogue Platform.

Conflict, displacement and anticipatory action: exploring possibilities and challenges

Research shows that the most severe disaster events occur in many of the countries most affected by protracted conflict, while many people displaced by conflict end up in hazard-prone countries and regions. This highlights the pressing need to examine the possibilities, risks and effectiveness of anticipatory action in these settings. This session explored anticipatory action in, and in the aftermath of, conflicts, exploring not only the challenges and opportunities of implementing this approach in conflict settings, but also anticipatory action interventions for displaced people after they have fled from conflict. There was a focus on considerations for refugees in countries where their rights, such as freedom of movement, are restricted, and how the humanitarian community must adapt anticipatory action interventions for these contexts.

The session also provided insights into a growing but contentious area of anticipatory action: forecasting conflict itself, with the aim of providing assistance to minimize the harm it brings. Case studies included Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, internally displaced people in South Sudan, and other examples from around the world. These brought practical issues and opportunities to light, as well as important ethical considerations.

Why is it critical to integrate indigenous knowledge systems into the anticipatory action approach?

Indigenous knowledge systems are knowledge passed orally by communities from generation to generation, and learned through observing the environment. This session discussed findings about indigenous knowledge systems from work in Colombia, Zimbabwe and other countries, reflecting on why they are key for predicting seasonal forecasts and suggesting how they can be integrated within the anticipatory action approach.

The (im)perfect storm: the particular challenge of anticipatory action ahead of storms

Based on current forecasting capacity, there are usually only a few hours to a few days to take anticipatory action ahead of tropical storms – and this is often with high uncertainty about where the storm will hit until shortly beforehand, leaving a small window for anticipatory action. Recent events, such as Super Typhoon Noru in the Philippines, have highlighted this challenge.

Experts say that rapidly developing typhoons are set to become much more common with climate change, making it increasingly difficult to predict which storms will intensify and where they will land. This poses significant problems for anticipatory action programmes that depend on a certain lead time to implement actions that add value to existing preparedness measures. It also makes the integration of – and a smooth transition between – preparedness, anticipatory action and rapid response particularly important. This session discussed the challenges of forecasting and acting in anticipation of storms, highlighting the links between anticipatory action and rapid response in the Caribbean and in Asia-Pacific.

Localized anticipatory action without civil society organizations? A showcase of civil society integration in the anticipatory action community

How can we make anticipatory action more localized? How can we really coordinate and streamline the development of EAPs? How can we integrate communities in locally led anticipatory action? And what about scale? This session presented how non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations developed an approach to community-based EAPs, locally led anticipatory action and how this was implemented successfully. The speakers outlined their streamlined community-based EAP development process, which is seen as best practice for a localized approach, as well as interorganizational collaboration efforts and NGO synergies. They reflected on the role of local NGOs as a third pillar of the anticipatory humanitarian system, their bottom-up approach to the community-led implementation of EAPs, and the unused potential to scale up further. Together with the audience, the speakers sought to find answers to the challenges civil society faces when participating in anticipatory action, such as entry barriers around financing and structures that prevent civil society from participating more widely.

Earth observation for anticipatory action description

The Anticipation Hub's Earth Observations for Anticipatory Action Working Group brings together diverse partners and practitioners who share their approaches to anticipatory action, identify new opportunities for exploring Earth observations in the context of early action, and create opportunities to pilot these activities. The goal is that all activities are anchored to developing solutions for real-world challenges. Its activities are ambitious, requiring partners, ideas and energy from across multiple sectors: not just Earth observation and humanitarian action, but also those interested in shifting the focus from disaster response to anticipatory action and reducing the detrimental impacts of hazards on lives and livelihoods. This session reviewed the past year for the working group and determined the path for 2023, including interest in expanding to different types of data, artificial intelligence and machine learning.



Parallel sessions at the Global Dialogue Platform.

Side events

To enable as many people as possible to share their experiences and lessons, the programme for the 10th Global Dialogue Platform was expanded to include 16 side events. Some of these presented country case studies, while others explored cross-cutting themes such as how to minimize the impacts of predictable hazards on children, or the scientific evidence for cash transfers (see below).



Full descriptions of all the side events are available on the event website:
tinyurl.com/2s3tscme

Anticipatory action meets evidence: generating scientific evidence on the effectiveness of a forecast-based cash transfer programme

At the core of this side event was a presentation about the aims, methods and limitations of rigorous impact evaluation in the context of anticipatory action programmes. This first addressed research methodologies for causal inference and the advantages of using existing household-panel data collection for generating robust evidence.

After this, the presenters introduced the CashEval project, which is being implemented by the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and the international NGO People in Need, with funding from the German Federal Foreign Office. This forecast-based humanitarian assistance programme supported herding households at high risk of experiencing extreme winter conditions in the 2020/21 winter in Mongolia. In the third section, the scientific impact evaluation of the CashEval project was presented.

The session was held as an online event and attracted 40 participants from all over the world in a lively discussion about the necessity and feasibility of rigorous empirical impact evaluation in anticipatory humanitarian programming.



In-person participants at the Global Dialogue Platform.

10th Global Dialogue Platform
on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action

DAY THREE

Anticipating food crises

The keynote address on day three picked up on a theme from the 9th Global Dialogue Platform in 2021: how can we implement anticipatory action ahead of food crises? While progress and commitments have been made towards this, the funds available and the scale of assistance do not yet match the growing intensity and magnitude of these crises: according to the *Global Report on Food Crises*, in just five years (2016–2021), the prevalence of food insecurity has grown from 108 million people affected in 48 countries to 193 million people in 53 countries.

Ahmed Amdihun, Intergovernmental Authority on Development's (IGAD) Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC), shared an assessment of the current situation in east Africa: "Dire... due to the compounding risks of Covid-19, desert locusts and prolonged drought." About 50 million people are acutely food insecure, he confirmed, "and this is a very, very high caseload for the region to deal with".

Nana Dlamini, Southern African Development Community (SADC), confirmed that her region faces a crisis of similar proportions, with about 55.7 million people being food insecure; this represents a 7 per cent increase from the 2021/22 season to the 2022/23 season. Drought is the major cause, but the region's risk profile has also shifted in recent years, with cyclones, floods and pandemics an increasing challenge, alongside the economic crisis and political issues that are afflicting many Member States. Combined, these increase household vulnerability and worsen food insecurity year on year. "This makes it impossible for people to bounce back and recover on their own," she explained.

To scale up anticipatory approaches for food crises, practitioners and decision-makers need a common understanding of the principles and criteria of anticipatory action for protracted crises, and agreement on how to analyse the impacts on food security of this approach. "In the SADC region, anticipatory action is still in its infancy," said Nana. "We are still in the learning phase. Member States want clear evidence of the effectiveness [of this approach], for example in preserving resilience gains, to inform their decision-making".

Such evidence is increasingly available, but even more is needed. For example, she highlighted the need for information about concrete returns on investments at a large scale. This could enable anticipatory action to complement ongoing interventions on the ground: "SADC Member States have specifically indicated an interest in integrating anticipatory action into frameworks... [such as] contingency planning and frameworks for DRM."

“

Anticipation should be mainstreamed and should get support at the highest level.

Ahmed Amdihun, ICPAC

”

“Anticipatory action can contribute to breaking the vicious cycle in the Horn of Africa,” agreed Ahmed. “The real issue now is: where do we see anticipation within existing strategies?” Emergency responses still tend to be delayed responses, but early warnings for this hazard do exist; ICPAC has been issuing such warnings since 2020. He explained that there is a roadmap for anticipatory action in the region, and this now needs to be rolled out: “We need to encourage actors and governments by showing the return on investments of acting in anticipation of a crisis.” The priority is to pilot this approach in different places and then scale up from there.



You can rewatch the full discussion online:
tinyurl.com/2s3tscme



Listening to the speakers on day three.

Impact before instruments: addressing barriers with coordinated and innovative approaches for anticipatory action

It is increasingly clear that financing for anticipatory action can no longer come solely from the humanitarian sector; it will also need to come from other climate and development actors. But how can we make this happen?

Recent reports from **REAP** and **Start Network** identified some of the barriers to scaling up financing for anticipatory action, noted **Ronald Jackson**, United Nations Development Programme, as he opened the discussion. So, how do we overcome these? Representatives from the humanitarian, donor, development and government sectors offered their perspectives on this puzzle by fielding a series of audience questions. Below are some of the many thoughts shared during this session.

What are the biggest challenges and opportunities for scaling up financing for anticipatory action? **Delali Kemeh**, African Union Commission, identified a recurring barrier: “The term ‘anticipatory action’... needs to be clarified: what does it mean, what should it mean, what value does it add and how does it differ from preparedness? There needs to be time given to understand a concept, and then implement it. If terms are not clear, there will be a delay in them being implemented.” Even though there is often political will, including within the African Union, there is not always enough evidence to generate the necessary responses at the national level.

One opportunity, shared repeatedly during the three days, was to move from scattered interventions to programmes, and from fragmented financing to coordinated commitments. There is also the governance factor, suggested **Leonie Le Borgne**, Start Network. Governments are often very risk averse with their funds, but as time goes on, they can see how pooled funds, such as the Start Ready fund, actually work. This makes them “risk hungry, and they are now allocating more funds,” she suggested. This in turn generates more evidence that this approach works, which will help to keep governments on board when it comes to providing the support needed. She also noted there is a need for innovation in financing mechanisms, and this is being realized in new flexible mechanisms, such in the Disaster Response Emergency Fund and the Central Emergency Response Fund.

“

This platform shows a willingness to listen, but there is more room for improvement.

Delali Kemeh,
African Union Commission

”

Lea Kulick, InsuResilience Global Partnership, shared another new mechanism for climate financing: the Global Shield, launched at COP27, which has already received pledges of around 200 million euros. How can non-humanitarian funds such as this support anticipatory action? One way is to look at how instruments can be made more anticipatory, she suggested. Risk-financing instruments, for example, could pay out earlier – before a hazard even happens. “You really need this variety of [financing] instruments, and alignment of the different systems,” she concluded. “We need to get this done in a coordinated manner.”

“

The Global Shield provides an opportunity to shield the vulnerable from shocks. The challenges, especially in Africa, to a scaled-up risk initiative is [a] lack of synergy in the DRR policies and mechanisms in the various countries.

Lea Kulick, InsuResilience Global Partnership

”



Questions from the audience.

Together for transformation: nurturing a community and accelerating a movement

Every approach that humanitarians now use began its life as a simple idea. But are creativity and ingenuity overlooked when assessing the core components of how we help those affected by hazards? The final plenary at the 10th Global Dialogue Platform showcased inspiring stories, from within and beyond the anticipatory action community, with a focus on how young people, the media and the arts can help spread ideas within a community so that it matures into a movement.

A series of panellists shared personal stories about how they had come to work in anticipatory action. After this, the audience discussed what had motivated them to work in this field. Their stories were collated using a Menti poll, which revealed often overlapping themes: 'reducing suffering', 'opportunities to help vulnerable people' and to 'change the way to help and solve (some) needs'.

What motivates you to work on anticipatory action?





You can rewatch this session, including the stories shared by the other panellists, online: tinyurl.com/2s3tsme

But how can we transform the humanitarian system to incorporate more anticipatory action? **Duncan Green**, Oxfam GB, shared his suggestions, including: “Walk towards complexity, ambiguity and uncertainty. The world is complex; to be effective, you have to embrace these.”

Sharing a story from a different sector, **Vincy Abraham**, Purpose Climate Lab India, talked about some of the ways in which her organization helps ideas to spread. One approach is to ask: what are communities really passionate about? To illustrate this, she shared the example of Climate Voices Kerala, a project that aims to shift power back to climate migrants in that state, who are being forced to move because the coastline is eroding due to rising sea levels. The project does this by amplifying their stories and lived experiences, which helps to develop a narrative about the need for adaptation measures to be just and equitable. The project also engages with young people, working with them to build and implement solutions, as well as pushing the state government in Kerala to help rehabilitate and reintegrate migrants, for example through supportive media campaigns.



If I’m not uncomfortable, I’m probably doing it wrong. There are new ways of approaching things that really challenge the set systems... If we didn’t look at how to do things differently, we wouldn’t see the change [such as anticipatory action] that we see today.

Shanna McClain, National Aeronautics and Space Administration



3. What should we add?



“
 I would like to see more of the Pacific represented at the next Global Dialogue Platform.
 Melanie Ogle, IFRC
 ”



Participants share their reflections on the final day.

Wrapping up the proceedings for another year, members of the organizing team shared their thoughts about what is working and where we can improve. This was followed by thoughts from the organizers of the regional dialogue platforms that took place in 2022.

“

After three days...
I think we can say we
are on the right track.

Lizzy Rees, Start Network

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“

Over 200 people here, around 900 online – that’s
more than 30,000 hours dedicated to a very simple
idea: getting ahead of a crisis.

Juan Chavez-Gonzales, OCHA

”

“

Scaling up to more government intervention, scaling up to more
hazards, and scaling down... in terms of localization of capacities
and, in terms of our dialogue platforms, to sub-regional and
national levels.

Mathieu Destrooper, German Red Cross

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“

It's a bit of a jungle out there in
terms of anticipatory action...
We need to build coherency
with the region.

Catherine Jones, FAO

”

“

My ask is that you help us, as Africa, to move from dialogue to action. We need a lot of support from partners to make this happen.

Phoebe Shikuku, IFRC

”

“

We need to break down silos... engage other actors and sectors.

Raymond Zingg, IFRC

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“

How do we bring more governments into the discussion? How do we bring in more local communities?

Marion Khamis, FAO

”



Marion Khamis.

Reflections on the 10th Global Dialogue Platform

From the session chats

“

I'm loving the commitment to an excellent hybrid set-up, a huge accessibility and equity tool, and very proud of the anticipatory action community for pushing this!

Dorothy Heinrich, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

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“

An amazing event as always, so dynamic, enthusiastic, and well organized and moderated!

Jochen Luther, European Commission, Directorate-General International Partnerships

”

“

I love the remarks about the need to ensure localization of anticipatory action... we need to place national and local actors in the driving seat and work out means of strengthening the capacity of local meteorological systems and setting realistic triggers, based on local weather stations.

Paul Okot, Uganda Red Cross Society

”

“

Such a dynamic network of anticipatory action actors. A lot is ongoing but still a lot to be done. Exciting to hear the need to scale up and localize more.

Maria Lourdes Kathleen Macasil,
World Meteorological Organization

“

It is evident that anticipatory action is vital for our communities, we have long been acting as firefighters with a lot of investment... with anticipation the burden lightens. I am eager to have a clear idea of successes and challenges with anticipatory action pioneers.

Salvator Nzobonankira, Burundi Red Cross Society

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On social media

“

We're loving how much online participants are being involved in the Global Dialogue Platform!! The hybrid format is receiving a lot of well-deserved praise.

Early Warning Early Action Future Leaders Network (@EWEA_FLN)

”

“

A message for all those on the #GlobalDP today (& over the next few days)... please remember: gender is more than women. We can't talk about how gender needs to be considered in #DRR #DRM & emergency management without recognising all genders (incl. non-binary genders).

Kevin Blanchard (he/him) (@DRRDynamics)

”

“

@UgandaRedCross today at Global Dialogue Platform summarizing the 5-year long IARP [Innovative Approaches to Response Preparedness] journey setting up an #AnticipatoryAction system in Uganda. 5-years back feels like yesterday!

Emmanuel Ntale (@NTALEEMMANUEL_)

”

i

Further reflections from participants are available in a series of short interviews on our YouTube channel: tinyurl.com/mr228h8h

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Partners



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You can rewatch the many of the sessions online:
tinyurl.com/2s3tscme

Please note that you need to log in to access these. The full agenda, including all speakers, is also available online.

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