2nd National Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action

Malawi – Final Report

26-27 November 2024, Lilongwe

Hosted by the

Malawi National Anticipatory Action Technical Working Group

MALAWI

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INTRODUCTION

To effectively address the impacts of the climate crisis and reach the most vulnerable populations, a shift from reactive response to proactive risk management is essential. **Anticipatory Action (AA)** approaches have gained significant momentum in recent years as a means to prevent predictable climate hazards from escalating into humanitarian disasters. This proactive disaster management strategy involves taking steps to mitigate the humanitarian impacts of forecasted hazards before they occur or before their most severe effects are felt.

In October 2022, the **1st National Dialogue Platform** on AA was conducted in Malawi. Hosted by Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS), Danish Red Cross (DRC), Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, the event brought together 33 humanitarian actors to co-create the **National Roadmap for Multi-hazard Anticipatory Actions** (Annex 4) which was further reviewed in December 2023. The roadmap, aligned with regional, African, and global milestones, focuses on the four pillars: coordination, triggers, financing, and advocacy and awareness.

As an outcome of the National Roadmap and Malawi's national strategy to enhance disaster preparedness and response, the **Malawi National Anticipatory Action Technical Working Group** (MNAA-TWG) was established in the beginning of 2024 following the official endorsement of DoDMA. This group focuses on enhancing the country's capacity to prepare for, anticipate, and act ahead of shocks and disasters based on early warnings and risk analyses.

Building on the outcomes of the 1st National Dialogue Platform and the subsequent update in 2023, the Government of Malawi, through DODMA, with support from the MRCS and DRC, and in partnership with the FAO and World Food Programme (WFP), UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and UN Resident Coordinator, hosted the **2nd National Dialogue Platform** on AA from 26-27 November 2024 in Lilongwe. The event was attended by 76 participants, representing national- and district level government, UN organisations, (I)NGOs, academia, and media. Besides inviting national AA stakeholders, the event also brought key government stakeholders from Mozambique to share their experiences and progress on AA.

The 2nd National Dialogue Platform was hosted under the theme **"A Roadmap Coming Alive: Navigating Barriers and Enablers for Institutionalising Anticipatory Action in Malawi"**. The event provided an opportunity for all stakeholders in the AA sector to discuss how to effectively operationalise the roadmap, how to strengthen the coordination and institutionalisation of AA at national and local levels, how to overcome major barriers to bring (locally led) AA to scale and how to strengthen financing options for AA.

OBJECTIVES

- Provide an overview of AA in Malawi and in the region
- Share lessons and new developments from the implementation of AA
- Establish the major barriers to and enablers for scaling up and institutionalising AA in Malawi
- Facilitate multi-actor discussions on the present and future of AA in Malawi to harness existing momentum and create synergies for continuous collaboration
- Increase the knowledge of and interest in using AA to mitigate disaster impact, including cross-cutting thematic areas such as cash, social protection and Protection Gender Inclusion

OUTCOMES

- Improved awareness and knowledge on the barriers for AA in Malawi and how to overcome these
- Strengthened collaboration among government agencies, NGOs, academia, donors, local communities, and international partners to enhance the effectiveness of AA initiatives
- Formal commitment from stakeholders to prioritize and support the institutionalisation of AA
- Identification of funding opportunities, mechanisms for resource mobilization, and potential partnerships to sustain and scale AA initiatives

KEY TAKEAWAYS AND NEXT STEPS

The National Dialogue Platform highlighted several key insights on advancing, mainstreaming, and institutionalising AA in Malawi. The following points summarise the key takeaways and outline the next steps to drive the agenda forward in 2025 and beyond.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE PLATFORM

- While initial buy-in from MNAA-TWG members was strong, maintaining regular feedback and securing dedicated funding remain challenges, with AA efforts still largely driven by a few humanitarian and development partners.

- Members of the MNAA-TWG raised concerns about the lack of a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework for the national roadmap. Without clear outcomes, outputs, and indicators, tracking and reporting on AA progress in Malawi remains a significant challenge.

- A harmonised approach to implementing AA is essential. Given that AA is a relatively new concept, the distinction between preparedness activities and early actions remains subtle.

- Institutionalising AA in Malawi requires amplifying district voices. While 2024 has been a foundational year, efforts must intensify in 2025 to place districts at the centre of planning and implementation.

- The representation from Mozambique highlighted the success of organisations seconding a technical staff within the government, especially under the disaster management office, to support the advancement of government-led AA and coordination with humanitarian partners.

- In Mozambique, Early Warning and AA fall under the same technical working group, highlighting the linkages and dependence between the two. This is not the case in Malawi, and partners highlighted the need for DoDMA to provide guidance on how to ensure better coordination going forward.

- Capacity training on AA should continue throughout the country, from national to district and potentially community levels, to ensure broad understanding and capacity. This will help prevent AA from becoming organisation-driven and ensure it is implemented at all levels.

- Strengthening linkages between national and district-level AA protocols is essential. Mozambique's approach, which integrates district priorities through both bottom-up and top-down processes, ensures alignment with the DRM system and meaningful stakeholder engagement. Their national AA framework was initially designed at the national level but refined through feedback from district and community stakeholders, who are actively involved in discussions.

- The involvement of academia presents a significant opportunity to enhance AA efforts. In Mozambique, academic institutions played a key role in capturing and systematising local knowledge. Engaging academia in technical working groups, AA protocol development, and impact assessments can strengthen evidence-based decision-making and implementation.

- Mozambique representatives highlighted their approach to triggers, emphasising that each district has specific triggers in place, which allows AA partners to justify mobilising funds. Furthermore, they stressed the importance of designing AA protocols with flexibility to address the unique needs of each district.

- It is crucial to approach the donor environment and stakeholders as an "AA family," rather than viewing the AA landscape as a competition for resources. Partners should clearly define roles and responsibilities, with the government taking the lead based on capacity and expertise.

- Low-cost AA measures, particularly the dissemination of early warnings, can save lives and should be prioritised. It is essential to challenge the perception that AA activation requires substantial funding.

KEY NEXT STEPS IN ADVANCING AA IN MALAWI

- **Strengthen mechanisms for regular progress updates and feedback** from MNAA-TWG members to maintain momentum and ensure continued buy-in from all stakeholders. Establish a structured process for regular reporting and feedback loops to keep everyone aligned and accountable.

- **Discuss the drafting of a M&E framework for the roadmap**, ensuring clear outcomes, outputs, and indicators are established to effectively track progress and assess the impact of AA activities.

- **Continue advocating for a dedicated fund under the new DRM** Act to ensure sustainable financing for AA efforts, reducing the reliance on external humanitarian and development partners. Such a fund will provide long-term support for AA interventions in Malawi.

- **Advance the creation of a Multi-Hazard National Harmonised Framework for AA**, which will provide a comprehensive and coordinated approach to AA across various risks. This framework will help unify efforts from all stakeholders and ensure a more systematic and integrated response to potential crises.

- **Strengthen linkages between national and district-level AA protocols** by adopting a bottom-up and top-down approach that allows for district and community input into the national framework. Engaging local stakeholders and incorporating their feedback will ensure that AA strategies are practical, relevant, and widely supported.

- **Actively involve academic institutions** in the development of AA protocols, impact assessments, and technical working group activities to leverage local knowledge and research. Academic involvement will help to refine AA strategies, provide evidence-based insights, and enhance the overall effectiveness of interventions.

- **Continue implementing AA trainings** at national, district, and potentially community levels to build capacity across all levels. Training will ensure that stakeholders understand AA principles, tools, and practices, and are equipped to apply them effectively in their respective roles.

- **Continue implementing National Dialogue Platforms** to facilitate ongoing discussions, share findings, and foster collaboration among all partners. These platforms will also reinforce long-term commitment to AA implementation by keeping stakeholders engaged and informed.

- **Produce quarterly or yearly reports from the MNAA-TWG** to increase visibility of the work being done and promote the AA approach. Regular reports will demonstrate progress, highlight challenges, and build broader support for AA initiatives among government, donors, and the public.

- **Continue supporting exchange visits** to strengthen cross-border collaboration and enable countries in the region to share lessons learned and best practices. Exchange visits provide a valuable opportunity for peer learning, fostering stronger regional cooperation in AA implementation.

- **Draw lessons from countries like Mozambique** to refine and strengthen AA implementation strategies in Malawi. Learning from other countries' experiences will help identify successful approaches and avoid common pitfalls, leading to more effective implementation in Malawi.

SUMMARY OF SESSIONS

SESSION 1: WELCOME REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION

The event started with welcoming remarks from FAO, MRCS, Mozambique representative, DoDMA and WFP, also representing the UN Resident Coordinator.

Samuel Kirichu, FAO Head of Coordination and Operation Unit, highlighted that the El Niño-induced prolonged dry spells and localised floods in the country have led to a 17% national crop reduction compared to previous years, highlighting the urgent need for AA. Unlike traditional disaster response, AA protects livelihoods and food security, offering a more dignified and cost-efficient approach before communities suffer damages. He also highlighted how FAO studies show that for every dollar invested in AA, communities see significant benefits. However, financial resources to support these initiatives remain insufficient.

Mr. Chifundo Kalulu, Secretary General from MRCS, emphasised the need for Malawi to move beyond disaster preparedness to proactively saving lives through AA. He highlighted how the National Dialogue Platform was a call for action, urging attendees to overcome internal barriers and scale up AA in line with the Global and Regional Dialogue Platforms. Additionally, the secretary general noted that AA might be considered a 'bold move'; there is a need for bold collaboration and cross-sectoral efforts to maximise impact, stressing that AA is not just about policy but survival, given the rise in climate-related disasters. However, similarly to FAO representative he noted that the funding gaps could hinder efforts to scale up AA. He ended the remarks by highlighting the crucial role of all participants gathered in the room.

Jaime Alberto Mugabe, Administrator of Guija District in Mozambique, expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the National Dialogue Platform in Malawi. He noted that Guija district was among the first in Mozambique to implement AA. He concluded by emphasising the importance of cross-country learning and expressed his intention to take valuable insights back to his district.

The Deputy Director Disaster Preparedness from DoDMA, Fedson Chikuse, initially highlighted the importance of the visit from Mozambique, emphasising the power of regional coordination in sharing experiences, challenges, and best practices to strengthen collective capabilities. He noted that while Tropical Cyclone Freddy remained longer in Mozambique, the losses were more severe in Malawi, underscoring the urgent need for preparedness and AA to prevent such devastating impacts in the future. He urged participants to let the platform inspire efforts to enhance Malawi's resilience to disasters.

Paul Turnbull, Country Director from WFP and representing the UN Resident Coordinator, closed the welcome remarks by noting how Malawi is no stranger to the impacts of climate-related shocks, such as droughts, cyclones, and floods, which have left a significant humanitarian and economic footprint. He noted that recent events, including Tropical Cyclone Idai (2019), Tropical Cyclone Freddy (2023), and the 2024 El Niño, have deepened vulnerabilities, with the number of affected people rising from 1 million in 2019 to 5.7 million in 2024. Malawi loses an estimated USD 60 million annually to crop damage, primarily in the Southern and Central regions. Highlighting the urgency of the current lean season, he underscored the critical role of AA in mitigating impacts, protecting livelihoods, and reducing response costs. He extended his gratitude to the Government of Malawi, especially DoDMA, and the MNAA-TWG, in coordinating and leading AA efforts. Lastly, he called for collaboration and engagement, and pointed to members of the media, highlighting their critical role in amplifying the critical messages.

SESSION 2: ANTICIPATORY ACTION FOR BEGINNERS

The dialogue platform officially commenced with the first plenary session titled "Anticipatory Action for Beginners". The platforms are not only meant for experts in AA; it is also an opportunity to inform those who are new to this approach and keen to learn more. The session was led by DoDMA representative, **Edwin B.K. Zawanda,** Principal Disaster Preparedness Officer (PDPO), who addressed key questions:

What does AA mean? What does it look like in practice? Why do we do AA? And where does it sit within the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) continuum?

Participants were introduced to the core distinctions between traditional disaster responses and AA by underscoring AA's reliance on pre-agreed triggers, pre-arranged actions, and pre-arranged financing, which enable timely action before disasters strike. It also highlighted how AA is an integrated part of the DRM cycle, bridging the gap between long-term disaster preparedness and the immediate life-saving response phase. The session also emphasised primary goals of AA, including reducing humanitarian impacts and response costs, promoting a more dignified approach, and protecting development gains.

Lastly, participants were provided with a simple yet clear definition of AA: *Anticipatory Action refers to the actions we take between receiving a forecast of a hazard (trigger) and before it occurs (impact) with the aim of reducing the humanitarian impacts of a forecast hazard before it occurs, or before its most acute impacts are felt.*

Participants posed questions about the key conditions necessary for AA to be effective. In response, DoDMA and AA stakeholders emphasised several critical factors: focusing on forecastable hazards, such as hydro-meteorological disasters like floods or droughts; establishing well-defined triggers to initiate timely actions; and ensuring the availability of reliable funding to support those actions. Additionally, they underscored the importance of adopting a no-regret approach to AA, allowing actions to be taken confidently without causing harm or being deemed unnecessary if the predicted disaster does not occur. Led by DoDMA, the session exemplified the government's leadership in disseminating knowledge and driving the implementation of AA in Malawi.

SESSION 3: PRESENTATION AND UPDATE ON THE NATIONAL ROADMAP

The plenary session started out with a presentation and update on the AA National Roadmap, developed at the 1st National Dialogue Platform in 2022 (annex 4). The session was led by **Daniele Barelli**, Emergency, Resilience and ECTAD Team Leader from FAO, as co-lead of the MNAA-TWG.

The presentation highlighted key achievements since the update of the roadmap in December 2023. After the constitution of the MNAA-TWG in February 2024 (led by DoDMA and co-led by FAO) a roadmap workplan was developed jointly by all members. In addition to the coordination agencies, implementing organisations were included under each activity to fulfil the various pillar outputs and expected main objectives within the agreed timeline.

The presentation also highlighted opportunities and challenges in implementing the AA roadmap. While there was initial strong buy-in from AA TWG members, obtaining regular feedback on progress has become difficult, and a lack of dedicated funding for AA interventions is jeopardising implementation. Uncertainty also surrounds the level of human and financial resources the Government of Malawi can allocate, with AA efforts still largely driven by humanitarian and development partners. Opportunities include developing a Multi-Hazard National Harmonized Framework for AA, establishing a Trust Fund under the new DRM Act to support AA financing, and learning from countries like Mozambique. The dialogue platforms were also highlighted as key opportunities to share findings and emphasising the need for sustained implementation of the AA roadmap.

The presentation pointed to how 2023 had seen limited activity on the AA agenda on a national level. However, the revision of the roadmap in 2023 prompted an increase in national coordination and collaboration, with the roadmap now being active and guiding AA efforts nation-wide until end of 2025. In 2024, three MNAA-TWG meetings were held to review the implementation of activities and provide updates between government and partners. Acknowledgment was given to DoDMA for its investment in AA, with a call to expand engagement to other key ministries, such as the Ministry of Finance.

Following the overall update on the roadmap, FAO facilitated a plenary discussion on the presentation. Initially, academic institutions underscored their role in Pillar 4 of the roadmap, focusing on evidence-based

approaches and awareness-raising. Notably, Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST) has been actively participating in TWG meetings, and other academic institutions were encouraged to engage in these forums to ensure broader representation.

Throughout the presentation, participants raised concerns about the limited implementation of the roadmap and sought clarification on accountability and coordination mechanisms. FAO highlighted challenges in establishing a cohesive "AA family" in Malawi, noting that organisations often have competing priorities beyond AA. However, regional-level efforts and support from organisations like OCHA have been instrumental in advancing AA in Malawi. Significant progress in 2024 was acknowledged, including increased roadmap implementation, the establishment of the MNAA-TWG, national trainings on AA, greater participation from ministries, and the integration of AA into contingency plans. FAO remarked, "the elements of the AA family are being put together," while emphasising that, despite the structures in place, more effort is needed to scale up AA nationwide.

Additionally, Save the Children International (SCI) noted that while many AA activities are happening across Malawi, they remain fragmented and scattered across districts. This fragmentation underscores the need for consolidation, a responsibility for the MNAA-TWG to lead. DoDMA reinforced this point, emphasising the importance of convening actors to foster coordination and advocacy for AA. UNDP and academic partners also raised concerns about the absence of a M&E framework for the roadmap. Without clear outcomes, outputs, and indicators, tracking and reporting on AA progress in Malawi remains a significant challenge. It was agreed that a key next step for the MNAA-TWG would be to draft a M&E framework for the roadmap.

The session concluded with a brief update on the ongoing AA-programme implemented in a consortium comprising of WFP (as lead), FAO, MRCS and DRC, and funded by DG ECHO. The programme is implemented on a national level, with community-level activities in Phalombe and Blantyre. The programme has the overall aim of strengthening the coordination of AA mechanisms, enhancing evidence-based AA advocacy, streamlining trigger methodologies and aligning expanding disaster risk financing tools, as well as providing flexible funds to support activation of AA in case of a disaster. The programme is closely aligned with the roadmap and has since the initiation provided support to the scale up of AA.

SESSION 4: MARKETPLACE: A POSTER EXHIBITION OF AA IN MALAWI

The fourth session of the platform provided an opportunity for participants to learn about the many AA initiatives across the country. The actors with market stalls were MRCS, OCHA, FAO, Welt Hunger Hilfe (WHH), YONECO, and Save the Children. All market stalls showcased different initiatives related to AA: for example, MRCS showcased recent research on the effectiveness of AA-programming, WHH portrayed how their WAHAFA (WHH Anticipatory Humanitarian Action Facility) programme works, and Save the Children presented what child-centered AA can look like. Participants were actively engaging in the market stalls in the room, raising questions and comments.

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SESSION 5: PARALLEL SESSIONS ON LOCAL LEADERSHIP ON AA AND LINKAGES WITH SOCIAL PROTECTION

Parallel session 1: From the Ground Up: Enhancing AA through local leadership

This parallel session focused on the role of local actors in AA. **Save the Children International** (SCI) showcased a locally led AA approach through its partner, **TIPOLISO** (Tikondane Positive Living Support Organisation), in a presentation titled "A Proactive Approach to Child Protection: Our Journey in Integrating Anticipatory Action in Child Protection."

Founded in 2004, TIPOLISO initially focused on sustainable HIV prevention and support for people living with HIV. Over time, it expanded its mandate to address the root causes of child vulnerability, including poverty, inequality, and social injustice. In partnership with SCI, TIPOLISO piloted a project in Zomba aimed at integrating AA into child protection programming.

The project strengthens TIPOLISO's capacity in AA for child protection, focusing on training in AA and DRM, search and rescue, and the provision of Psychological First Aid (PFA) to affected children. A key component involves child-led hazard prioritisation using downscaled weather forecasts to identify key risks, particularly floods and strong winds, for the 2024-2025 season. Through structured consultations, children identified protection concerns linked to these hazards, which were further analysed and mapped to assess their impact on the ground. Based on these findings, child-led anticipatory actions were developed to reduce vulnerabilities and enhance resilience among children. These efforts include raising awareness on protection issues related to identified hazards, disseminating early warning messages, and advocating for government support in rehabilitating unsafe infrastructure that poses risks to children's safety.

The presentation also highlighted key challenges, including institutional silos resulting from limited coordination among AA stakeholders, funding constraints that hinder the sustainability of AA initiatives, and inadequate early warning instruments to inform timely decision-making. Ultimately, the session underscored the importance of leveraging local voices and capacities through community-based organisations to strengthen and mainstream AA in Malawi.

Parallel session 2: Exploring the linkages between social protection and AA

This parallel session dived into how AA can be mainstreamed into national social-protection systems. Social protection is defined as a portfolio of programmes and policies developed to minimise poverty and vulnerability, and help individuals cope with life-cycle risks as well as covariate risks. Indeed, evidence shows social protection can help manage climate-related risks by preparing for, anticipating, and responding to hazards. Embedding anticipatory action into national social protection enhances timeliness, predictability, cost-efficiency, and supports institutionalization. Integration can occur at policy, program design, and implementation levels.

The session initiated by **Claudia Patrone**, Social Protection and Cash and Voucher Assistance Specialist from FAO Malawi, who provided a brief overview of the theory on social protection and linkages with AA. The presentation highlighted how shock-responsive social protection in practice can mean giving more support to existing social protection recipients in the face of a shock (vertical expansion), temporarily enrolling more people in the social protection scheme (horizontal expansion), making the social protection programmes faster, fairer, and more efficient (design adaptations), or allowing non-government organisations to channel complementary support to vulnerable groups through the social protection system (piggybacking or alignment). The presentation also pointed to three main reasons for linking social protection and AA: (1) inclusivity reason: more inclusive AA programmes that leave no one behind, (2) opportunistic reason: more effective and efficient AA interventions, and (3) sustainability reason: institutionalisation of AA in government structures.

Alongside the initial theory two practical examples were shared: one from Malawi and one from Mozambique. From Malawi, **Mulder Mkutumula**, Disaster Risk Finance Specialist & Scalability Coordinator/ Shock Sensitive Specialist from the National Local Government Finance Committee (NLGFC) presented the

Social Support for Resilient Livelihoods Project, supported by the World Bank and the Global Shield Finance Facility.

The project links Disaster Risk Financing (DRF) with social protection systems and AA, focusing on a scalable mechanism to provide cash to vulnerable households after droughts. Using pre-agreed decision-making processes and standby financing, the program ensures quick relief delivery, triggered by primary (satellite data) and secondary (ground observations) mechanisms. Cash transfers are issued over three months via e-payments through the Unified Beneficiary Registry (UBR) or cash-in-hand, leveraging local systems.

Key lessons include the importance of strong government leadership, pre-agreed rules and financing, investments in social registries and payment systems, and recognising the complexities of procuring insurance products. Looking ahead, the program aims to expand nationwide, address and expand to cover flood risks, align with other DRF mechanisms to build fiscal resilience, and evaluate its performance to date.

From Mozambique, **Jaime Alberto Mugabe,** Administrator of Guija District, provided examples of how social protection systems have been integrated into AA initiatives, highlighting the use of the Post-Emergency Direct Social Assistance Program (PASD-PE) during AA activations for drought. This social protection programme enabled unconditional cash transfers and food assistance under the AA protocol, prioritising vulnerable households, such as those headed by children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities. The linkage of social protection programmes with AA protocols in Mozambique showcases how the social protection systems can be utilised for targeting and simplified delivery of assistance, whether in the form of cash or food baskets.

SESSION 6: AN EXAMPLE FROM MOZAMBIQUE: THE ROAD TOWARDS A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR AA

One of the highlights of the 2nd National Dialogue Platform was the participation of two representatives from Mozambique: **Jaime Alberto Mugabe**, administrator of Guija District, and **Eduardo Castro Jr.** WFP Senior Programme Associate seconded to the National Institute for Disaster Risk Management and Reduction (INGD). The plenary session explored Mozambique's journey in developing a national framework for AA and offered insights into the processes, challenges, and lessons learned in institutionalising AA, providing valuable perspectives and inspiration for AA stakeholders in Malawi.

The road towards a national framework in Mozambique

The session started with a presentation by **Eduardo Castro Jr.** outlining the AA journey of Mozambique. In Mozambique the concept of AA was first introduced in 2015, by the Mozambican Red Cross with the support of German Red Cross, focusing on floods and cyclones. The government first considered AA, after the 2015/16 El Nino related drought that affected more than 2.2 million people. At the time there were no drought Early Warning Systems (EWS) in place, leading to drought EWS and AA being prioritised in the National Master Plan for Disaster Risk Management and Reduction (2017-2030). AA was further mainstreamed in the National Financial Protection Plan against Disaster in 2022, by the Ministry of Economy and Finance. This enabled the design of a national AA protocols initially for drought and lately in 2023, expanded to a multi-hazard approach.

Mozambique, therefore, provides an example of government-led AA, with government taking lead in the technical working group on AA and EW, introducing guidelines on for example EWS and DRF, and leading and coordinating the national AA frameworks. When further presenting the national framework, Eduardo Castro Jr. noted that triggers and AA protocols are district-specific, considering local vulnerabilities and priorities. All triggers are developed by the TWG with sectorial leadership. Critical learning points include that all districts should have specific trigger so AA partners can justify mobilising funds.

After the presentation, participants had the opportunity to raise questions and comment. It was noted that Mozambique integrates EW and AA within the same TWG, unlike Malawi, where these are separate and less coordinated. This was raised as point which must be followed up by DoDMA.

The Q&A also revealed that in Mozambique, the humanitarian organisations maintain their individual protocols which all feed into a national framework. Through the TWG, stakeholders collaboratively determine flexible triggers while retaining responsibility for their areas of expertise. In Malawi, although some sectors may use different triggers, efforts are made to align them for coordinated action. Despite these efforts, single-organisation activations still occur, though the government strives to ensure coordination without imposing guidelines.

Regarding a question on what mechanisms are in place to ensure that partners cooperate, the presenter noted that it was realised that all partners strive to have government recognition, and that it increases the capabilities and chances of raising funds with government support. Therefore, there is a mutual interest between government and AA stakeholders.

The session ended with government actors from Malawi acknowledging the urgent needs to further the AA agenda in Malawi. Department of Climate Chance and Meteorological Services (DCCMS) highlighted the newly peer-developed flood trigger, but also more work is needed to consolidate triggers, with key trigger monitoring organisations such as DCCMS and Department of Water Resources (DWR) in the front.

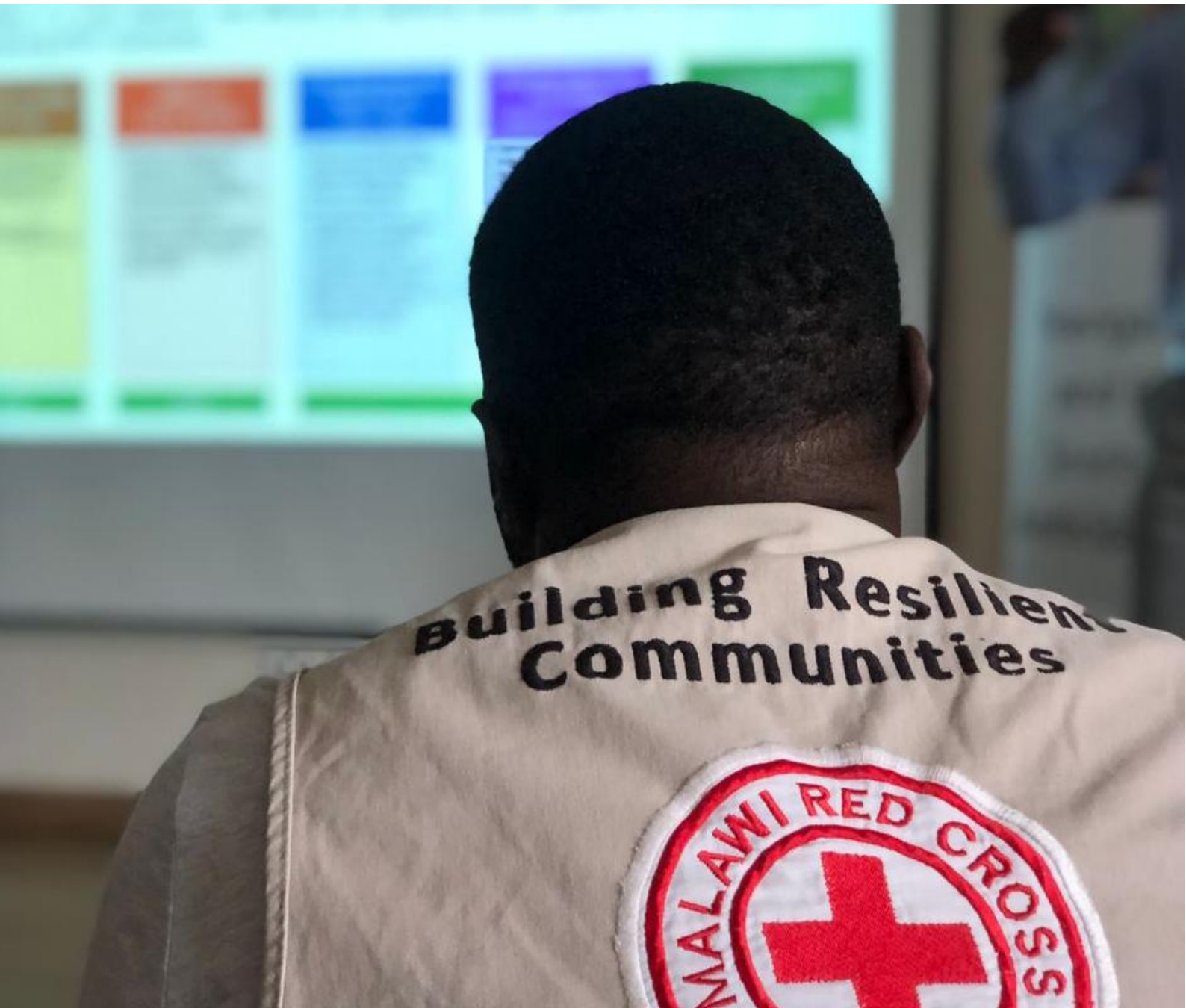
Lastly, DoDMA recognised the need for increased coordination, acknowledging the department's limited leadership so far. DoDMA highlighted the issue of staff continuity within the department, which is considered essential for maintaining and scaling AA initiatives effectively. The session ended with Fedson Chikuse from DoDMA noting: "DoDMA as coordinating unit will take lead on Anticipatory Action in Malawi. We are starting to understand what AA is all about."

A practical example from Guija district in Mozambique

In the second part of the session, **Jaime Alberto Mugabe**, Administrator of Guija District, presented on the practical implementation of AA in the districts. The presentation was based on the most recent experience with designing the drought AA protocol for 2023/24, which was activated for the first time in August 2023 by the National Council for Disaster Risk Management and Reduction. The Administrator highlighted the different priority areas of the district, including social protection, boreholes and resilient asset creation, thereby, showcasing how district specific plans are coordinated and organised.

In the Q&A session, the linkages between the national and district level AA frameworks were brought up. The representatives from Mozambique highlighted how the integration of district priorities into the national framework follows both a bottom-up and top-down approach. The TWG on AA and EW is replicated at the provincial and district levels, ensuring alignment with the DRM system. The national AA framework guidelines were initially designed at the national level but refined with feedback from district and community stakeholders, who are included in discussions.

The session was concluded on the note that institutionalising AA in Malawi requires amplifying district voices. While 2024 has been a foundational year for AA in Malawi, efforts must intensify in 2025 to place districts at the center of implementation and planning.



SESSION 7: WHAT DOES MAINSTREAMING AND INSTITUTIONALISATION OF AA ACTUALLY MEAN?

Aligned with the theme of the National Dialogue Platform, the session explored the concepts of **"mainstreaming"** and **"institutionalisation"** by addressing key questions: What does it mean to institutionalise AA? What would success look like, and how can it be achieved? What prerequisites must be in place for government adoption, and how can non-state actors support government leadership in AA?

Hosted by **Jyothi Bylappa**, Humanitarian Affairs Officer from UN OCHA, the session defined mainstreaming as embedding AA across national and sub-national levels - including organisations, communities, groups, and individuals - to mitigate the impact of extreme climate and non-climate risks through coordinated, sustainable, and inclusive approaches. Examples included integrating AA into national policies and legal frameworks, such as the Philippines' proposed bill for the Declaration of a State of Imminent Disaster, which would be the first national legislation for AA, addressing multiple hazards and dedicating a significant portion of local DRM budgets to AA.

The presentation also highlighted challenges, including knowledge gaps, insufficient incentives and capacities, operational fragmentation, and unclear mandates. However, opportunities such as leveraging cluster systems to embed AA within the DRM cycle were emphasised as critical steps toward successful institutionalisation.

SESSION 8: AA TALKS - HOW TO INTEGRATE AND MAINSTREAM AA IN MALAWI?

Based on the discussions and presentation, key AA stakeholders discussed the future of AA mainstreaming in Malawi through the following questions: What are the barriers? What are the opportunities, and what are the most crucial next steps? How can we strengthen existing systems to become more anticipatory, rather than build parallel ones?

The AA talks included the following participants: **Fedson Chikuse**, DoDMA Deputy Director Disaster Preparedness, **Yobu Kachiwanda**, Chief Meteorologist at DCCMS, **Jaime Alberto Mugabe**, Administrator of Guija District in Mozambique, **Heidi Carrubba,** Humanitarian and Resilience Adviser in Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) in Lilongwe, **Patrick Phiri**, Head of Disaster Management Department in MRCS, **Daniele Barelli**, Emergency, Resilience and ECTAD Team Leader in FAO, and **Steve Kamtimaleka**, Senior Area Operations and Humanitarian Manager at Save the Children International (SCI), Malawi.

Organisational perspectives on AA: what's next?

The **AA talks started with DoDMA** explaining what they are currently doing from government side to integrate AA in policies, structures, and ways of operating. DoDMA highlighted their role as *coordinating* agency, and not implementing actor. Additionally, Fedson Chikuse pointed to the DRM Law from 2023, which prior was focused on response, now focusing more on risk reduction and preparedness. The law is currently in the process of being disseminated at national level and will then be disseminated at district and community level. Additionally, he pointed to the cluster system being a strong entry point for coordination, alongside recognising the need for improvement.

Following this, the Mozambique district coordinator, **Jaime Alberto Mugabe**, outlined the *three key lessons learned* on how to promote government-led AA in the country. First, he highlighted the effective coordination of all stakeholders, including the integration of local leaders at the community level, as essential for achieving strong results. Second, he pointed to challenges around timing, and the need understanding AA as a time-sensitive field. Timing must be considered across all phases and fields, such as implementation, procurement, and financing. Lastly, he noted how cultural barriers remain significant,

as communities are often resistant to adopting new practices, underscoring the importance of addressing these barriers through community engagement and education.

The **DCCMS**, a key actor in Malawi's AA landscape, plays a vital role in providing climate-related data and information. When asked about what DCCMS is doing successfully on AA, Yobu Kachiwanda highlighted the departments' active collaboration with partners to develop and advance trigger mechanisms, including the establishment of a trigger taskforce under the MNAA-TWG in 2024. A recent peer-developed flood trigger, created collaboratively by key partners and led by MRCS, was also noted. However, DCCMS emphasised the ongoing challenge of harmonising and coordinating triggers, as these are often specific to individual organisations.

When the AA talks moved to the development and humanitarian organisations, the **FAO** emphasised their leadership at global and regional levels, and the active role in Malawi under DoDMA's leadership. FAO identified a harmonised national AA framework, including trigger mechanisms, as a critical next step, alongside sustained government leadership across sectors and the appointment of AA focal points in all departments to ensure coordination. FAO also stressed the urgent need for donor discussions and conferences to address funding challenges. Lastly, FAO urged support for the MNAA-TWG from all partners.

SCI underscored AA as a bridge between disaster risk reduction, preparedness, and crisis response. They emphasised Malawi's youth and children as key stakeholders, calling for their inclusion in AA discussions, alongside greater focus on child protection, malnutrition, and tools like the Household Economy Analysis (HEA). Additionally, they advocated for district-level engagement to prevent AA from being confined to national agendas. Lastly, **MRCS** highlighted the importance of generating evidence to showcase AA's effectiveness and attract pre-arranged funding. They shared findings from their Comparative Study on Early Warning and Early Action during Cyclone Freddy, which demonstrated that prior AA programming, such as community trainings, increased the likelihood of community members hearing, believing and responding to early warnings by 20%.

The AA talks also benefitted from the participation of **FCDO**, representing the donor community. FCDO highlighted their longstanding commitment to the AA agenda, including funding of the first OCHA drought framework, supporting dialogue platforms, contributing to the national roadmap, and engaging in the MNAA-TWG. They emphasised their efforts to influence donors, such as advocating to ECHO to adopt an AA lens. While commending the MNAA-TWG's achievements, FCDO stressed the urgency of timely action, warning that missing the "window of opportunity" risks "wasted funds". Lastly, FCDO called for a focused discussion on AA - distinct from prevention and risk reduction - and the need for clear triggers to enable early action and warnings.

Key barriers and opportunities for advancing AA in Malawi

During the final discussions, participants were asked to identify **two key barriers** and **two major opportunities** for mainstreaming and institutionalising AA in Malawi.

FCDO emphasised the importance of aligning AA funding needs with the national multi-hazard contingency plan, ensuring that financial requirements are clearly outlined. It was noted that many early actions require minimal funding but rather depend on effective mobilisation and sensitisation efforts to empower communities and individuals to take protective measures. Key questions raised included: *What are the most critical actions to save lives and livelihoods*? and *How can we maximise the impact of limited resources?* These points were reinforced by MRCS, SCI and FAO. Additionally, FCDO highlighted that the MNAA-TWG currently focuses heavily on long-term theoretical planning and stressed the need to shift towards improving present coordination.

SCI underscored the importance of incorporating local communities and voices, particularly those of children and young people, as a key opportunity for scaling up AA in Malawi. SCI also pointed to the districts present at the discussion, noting their pivotal role in advancing the AA agenda. **MRCS** echoed the importance of bringing communities into decision-making processes to bridge gaps and ensure institutionalisation. They also highlighted the potential of low-cost AA measures, particularly the

dissemination of early warnings, in saving lives. A key takeaway was the need to break the perception that AA requires substantial funding for activation.

Conversely, **DCCMS** identified two major barriers: the need for a mindset shift and the lack of documentation and inclusion of indigenous knowledge. Despite the increasing frequency of climate-related disasters, a proactive approach remains challenging. Additionally, indigenous knowledge is often excluded from discussions on climate, AA, and response efforts.

Along these lines, the counterparts from **Mozambique** highlighted the involvement of academia as a significant opportunity. In Guijá District, Mozambique, academia has played a role in capturing and systematising local knowledge for AA activities. To leverage this, they suggested engaging academic representatives in technical working groups and other relevant forums, as well as actively involving academia in the development of AA protocols and impact assessments.

As co-lead of the MNAA-TWG, **FAO** stressed the importance of approaching donors and stakeholders as a united AA community rather than competing for resources. It was noted that a clear understanding of each partner's capacity and expertise, with government in the lead, could encourage greater donor interest and support.

Finally, **DoDMA** highlighted the role of the media as an increasing opportunity - not only for showcasing AA efforts but also for ensuring engagement before, during, and after activations. It was suggested that formalising agreements with media houses could be beneficial moving forward. DoDMA also proposed increasing the visibility of the MNAA-TWG's work by producing quarterly reports to be shared with relevant committees and clusters. On the other hand, **DoDMA** pointed to challenges in coordination when they are not involved from the outset. Often, organisations engage the government too late in the process, limiting its ability to influence decisions and effectively fulfil its mandate. Lastly, DoDMA stressed the need for a more proactive and practical approach to AA, urging discussions to move beyond theory and focus on actionable steps.

SESSION 9: A MESSAGE TO THE WORLD FROM MALAWI

The final session of the National Dialogue Platform was conducted in a World Café format, bringing participants together to draft "a message to the world from Malawi." Building on discussions from the previous two days, the session aimed to reaffirm commitments to advancing the AA agenda while identifying key areas for further progress and institutionalization.

Participants rotated between tables, contributing to a consolidated message through discussions centered on four critical questions: current efforts in AA, existing gaps, necessary stakeholders, and urgent next steps. This collaborative exercise facilitated a shared vision for strengthening and enabling AA in Malawi. See **Annex 1** to read the final message to the world.

SESSION 10: WRAPPING UP THE 2ND NATIONAL DIALOGUE PLATFORM

DoDMA expressed gratitude to all participants for their time and commitment to the dialogue. Special appreciation was extended to Mozambique, highlighting the importance of regional collaboration, particularly with Mozambique and Madagascar, given their shared experiences with disasters. DoDMA highlighted that strengthening regional cooperation, including pre-positioning stockpiles in Malawi and vice versa, was identified as a key strategy. The dialogue platform had emphasised the value of exchange visits to enhance cross-border collaboration.

ANNEX 1: A MESSAGE TO THE WORLD FROM MALAWI

A Message to the World from Malawi

Why We Can't Wait for the Next Disaster

2nd National Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action (AA) in November 2024

Climate change hits Malawi hard.

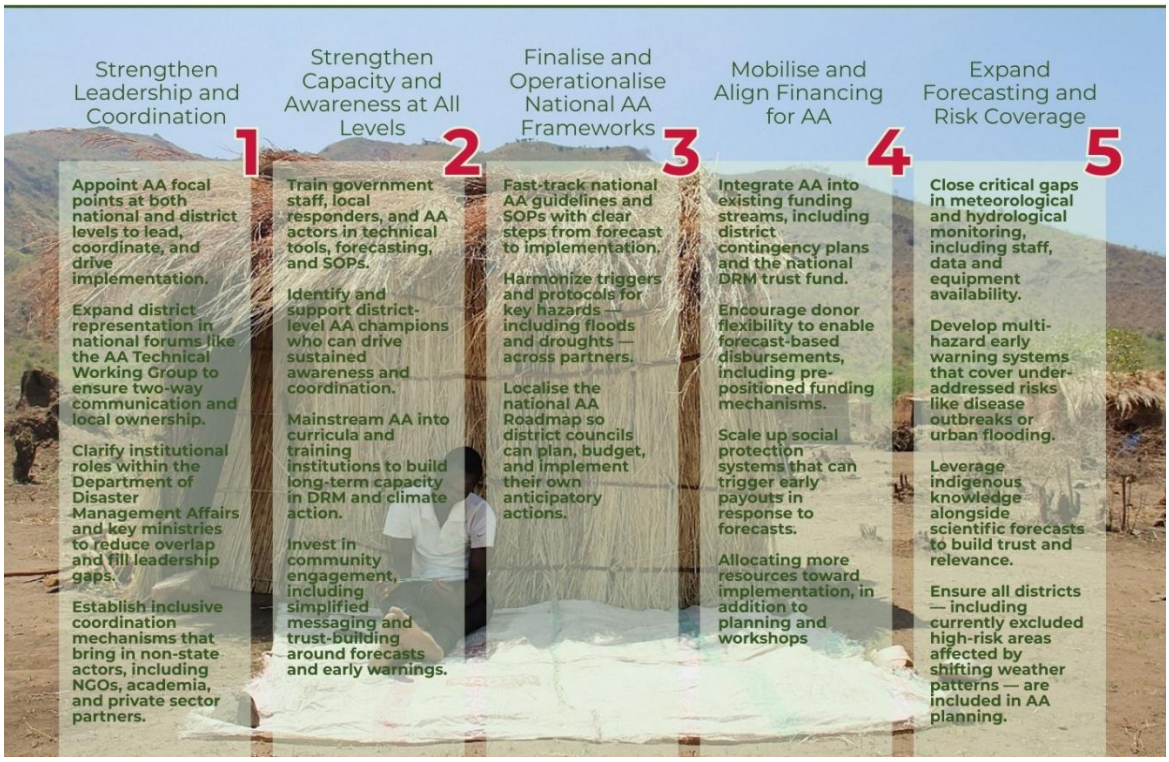
Floods, droughts, and cyclones continue to devastate communities. But we no longer need to wait for disaster to act. Malawi is ready to lead the shift from reaction to anticipation — *and we're calling on the world to join us.*

This is what we've built together so far...

- AA Roadmap and technical working group are already established at national level.
- Established national trigger working group, including a nationally agreed trigger for floods.
- Donors and private sector are showing strong interest in shifting approach to AA.
- Forecasting systems and local disaster risk management structures are operational.
- Some districts have begun institutiolising AA into their trainings and contigency planning.
- The Malawi Disaster Risk Management Act provides a legal foundation for preparedness and risk reduction.

This is a moment of opportunity — but without decisive action, momentum will be lost.
We call on the Government of Malawi, donors, and partners to move quickly on these...

Five Urgent Priorities



ANNEX 2: AGENDA

2nd National Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action

26-27 November 2024, Lilongwe, Malawi

Timing	Agenda point	Description	Facilitation
		DAY 1	
08:30 - 09:00	**Registration**	All participants are registered for the event.	MRCS
09:00 - 10:00	**Welcome remarks and presentation of the agenda**	The government and key AA stakeholders in Malawi will give their welcome remarks to officially kick off the 2nd National Dialogue Platform. MRCS will take participants through the agenda for the two days.	DoDMA, WFP, FAO and MRCS
10:00 - 10:45	**Anticipatory Action for beginners**	The dialogue platform is not only for experts in AA; it is also an opportunity to inform those who are new to this approach and keen to learn more. With this in mind, the first plenary will provide an introduction to AA: what does it mean? What does it look like in practice? And where does it sit within the Disaster Risk Management continuum?	DoDMA and MRCS
10:45 - 11:15	**Coffee break**		
11:15 - 12:30	**Presentation and update on the National AA Roadmap + ongoing AA programmes**	The AA Technical Working Group will give an overview of the National AA Roadmap, developed at the 1st Dialogue Platform in October 2022: Where are we and what have we done so far? A quick overview of some of the major achievements and the upcoming plans under ongoing AA programmes will also be presented during this session.	DoDMA and FAO
12:30 -	**Lunch**		

13:30			
13:30 - 15:00	**Marketplace: A poster exhibition of AA in Malawi**	As AA continues to expand across Malawi, there is a growing richness to the lessons and experiences being gained. To enable the participants to learn about as many of these as possible, a marketplace session will take place, with actors from across the country sharing recent outcomes from their activities or upcoming plans.	All interested organizations/ government actors
15:00 - 15:30	**Coffee break**		
15:30 - 16:30	**Parallel session 1:** From the Ground Up: Enhancing AA through local leadership	This parallel session focuses on the role of local actors in AA. Save the Children will present examples of locally-led AA, highlighting how local voices and capacities can be utilized in strengthening and mainstreaming AA in Malawi.	Save the Children
15:30 - 16:30	**Parallel session 2:** Exploring the linkages between social protection and AA	Drawing upon the Global Dialogue Platform 2024, this parallel session will dive into how AA can be mainstreamed into national social-protection systems. Social protection is a portfolio of programmes and policies developed to minimize poverty and vulnerability, and help individuals cope with life-cycle risks as well as covariate risks. Indeed, evidence shows social protection can help manage climate-related risks by preparing for, anticipating, and responding to hazards. Embedding anticipatory action into national social protection enhances timeliness, predictability, cost-efficiency, and supports institutionalization. Integration can occur at policy, program design, and implementation levels. This session will cover the theory, share an example from the Social Support for Resilient Livelihoods Project and the context of Mozambique.	FAO and partners
16:30 - 17:00	**Wrapping up day 1**		

DAY 2			
08:30 - 09:00	**Welcome and recap of day 1**		DoDMA/MRCS
09:00 - 10:00	**An example from Mozambique: The road towards a national framework for AA**	This session explores Mozambique's journey in developing a national framework for Anticipatory Action. The presentation will offer insights into the processes, challenges, and lessons learned in institutionalizing AA, offering valuable perspectives for Malawi.	Representative from Mozambique
10:00-10:30	**Coffee break**		
10:30 - 11:00	**What does mainstreaming and institutionalization of AA actually mean?**	In this plenary session, we will zoom in on the words "mainstreaming" and "institutionalization" by asking ourselves: What does it mean to institutionalize AA? What would success look like and how do we get there? What are the prerequisites for the government to adopt anticipatory action? How can non-state actors support government ownership of, and leadership on, anticipatory action?	OCHA
11:00 - 12:30	**AA talks: How to integrate and mainstream AA in Malawi?**	Based on the discussions and presentation in the last days, key AA stakeholders will discuss the future of AA mainstreaming in Malawi:What are the barriers? What are the opportunities, and what are the most crucial next steps? How can we strengthen existing systems to become more anticipatory, rather than build parallel ones?	All panelists + moderator
12:30 - 13:30	**Lunch**		
13:30 - 15:30	**Message to the world from Malawi: A commitment from stakeholders to the AA agenda in Malawi**	The last session of the National Dialogue Platform will gather participants in a World Cafe format. Based on the last two days, the participant will draft "a message to the world from Malawi", committing to advancing the AA agenda, but also highlighting what more needs to be done and how to move forward to institutionalize and enable AA in Malawi. Participants will move	MRCS

		around between tables, discussing and inputting to the consolidated message.	
15:30 - 16:00	**Coffee break**		
16:00 - 16:30	**Thank you and wrapping up the 2nd National Dialogue Platform**	The National Dialogue Platform will end with closing remarks from the government.	DoDMA

ANNEX 3: CONCEPT NOTE

THE 2nd NATIONAL DIALOGUE PLATFORM ON ANTICIPATORY ACTION IN MALAWI

A Roadmap Coming Alive:
Navigating Barriers and Enablers for Institutionalising Anticipatory Action in Malawi

PURPOSE

Malawi has recently continued to witness an increase in the frequency and magnitude of extreme weather events and disasters. The 2023/2024 season has been greatly affected by El Nino weather conditions. The frequency and magnitude of extreme events is growing due to climate change and other risk drivers, and these affect millions of people globally. The recent IPCC report provided a timely reminder of the need to address current and future climate risks in a collaborative and transformative manner. To effectively address the impacts of the climate crisis and reach the most vulnerable populations, a shift from reactive response to proactive risk management is essential. **Anticipatory Action (AA)** approaches have gained significant momentum in recent years as a means to prevent predictable climate hazards – such as storms, floods, and droughts – from escalating into humanitarian disasters. This proactive disaster management strategy involves taking steps to mitigate the humanitarian impacts of forecasted hazards before they occur or before their most severe effects are felt. Decisions to act are based on forecasts or collective risk analyses of when, where, and how events will unfold.
This approach calls on stakeholders to take proactive measures to ensure the necessary steps for information sharing and coordination are in place, and gaps are addressed before disaster impacts manifest. The **2nd National Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action in Malawi** aims to bring together a broad spectrum of national stakeholders to facilitate collaboration, as well as to update and implement the National Roadmap 2024-2025, aligned with the regional roadmap for Southern Africa and global goals.

The Government of Malawi, through the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), with support from the Malawi Red Cross Society and Danish Red Cross, and in partnership with the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP), UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and UN Resident Coordinator, is coordinating a National Dialogue Platform on AA from **26-27 November 2024** in Lilongwe. Participation across government ministries, academia, non-governmental and civil society organizations, and the private sector will be essential for the success of updating and implementing the multi-actorAA Roadmap.

BACKGROUND

Advocacy and inclusion efforts for AA have led the Government of Malawi to adopt a **proactive approach to disaster management**. In collaboration with the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Malawi adopted the Maputo Declaration on Bridging the Gap between Early Warning and Early Action on 8 September 2022. This Declaration aligns with the call from the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and the UN Secretary-General to provide reliable and timely Early Warning Systems to all citizens within five years. It builds on the Global Multi-Hazard Alert System Framework (GMAS) and the African Union's Africa Multi-hazard Early Warning and Action System (AMHEWAS), part of the African Union's Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan for 2022-2032. The Southern Africa Regional AA Roadmap, finalised in August 2022, focuses on coordination, triggers, financing, and advocacy and awareness. More information is available at www.anticipation-hub.org.

With these developments and regional initiatives in mind, the 1st National Dialogue Platform on AA in Malawi was conducted in October 2022. Hosted by DoDMA, DRC, MRCS, FAO, and the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office, the event brought together 33 humanitarian actors to **co-create the National Roadmap for multi-hazard anticipatory actions**. This roadmap, aligned with regional, African, and global milestones, also focuses on the four pillars: **coordination, triggers, financing**, and **advocacy and awareness.** It was updated in December 2023 in a workshop in Lilongwe, once again bringing together a range of humanitarian actors from national, district, and local levels. As an outcome

of the National Roadmap and Malawi's national strategy to enhance disaster preparedness and response, the **Malawi National Anticipatory Action Technical Working Group** (MNAA-TWG) was established in the beginning of 2024 following the official endorsement of DoDMA. This group focuses on enhancing the country's capacity to prepare for, anticipate, and act ahead of shocks and disasters based on early warnings and risk analyses.

Building on the outcomes of the 1st National Dialogue Platform and the subsequent update in 2023, the 2nd Dialogue Platform will delve into various issues surrounding its main theme "A Roadmap Coming Alive: Navigating Barriers and Enablers for Institutionalising Anticipatory Action in Malawi".

This event will provide an opportunity for all stakeholders in the AA sector - including humanitarian and development actors, communities, community-based organizations, local governments, donors, researchers, academia, scientists, and others - to discuss:

- How to effectively operationalize the roadmap for AA
- How to strengthen the coordination and institutionalization of AA at national and local levels
- How to overcome major barriers to bring (locally led) AA to scale
- How to strengthen financing options for AA in Malawi

OBJECTIVES

Overall, the 2nd National Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action aims to bring actors across sectors together to discuss, collaborate and increase knowledge on the approach. This will be achieved through the following objectives:

- Provide an overview of AA in Malawi and in the region
- Share lessons and new developments from the implementation of AA
- Establish the major barriers to and enablers for scaling up and institutionalising AA in Malawi
- Facilitate multi-actor discussions on the present and future of AA in Malawi to harness existing momentum and create synergies for continuous collaboration
- Increase the knowledge of and interest in using AA to mitigate disaster impact in Malawi, including cross-cutting thematic areas such as cash, social protection and Protection Gender Inclusion

OUTCOMES

1) Improved awareness and knowledge on the barriers for AA in Malawi and how to overcome these
2) Strengthened collaboration among government agencies, NGOs, academia, donors, local communities, and international partners to enhance the effectiveness of AA initiatives
3) Formal commitment from stakeholders to prioritize and support the institutionalization of AA in Malawi
4) Identification of funding opportunities, mechanisms for resource mobilization, and potential partnerships to sustain and scale AA initiatives, including recommendations for finance mechanisms tailored specifically to AA

ANNEX 4: NATIONAL AA ROADMAP (2022-2025)

NATIONAL ANTICIPATORY ACTION ROADMAP FOR MALAWI (2024-2025)

"Ready to Act before Disasters Impact"

ROADMAP STRATEGIC DIRECTION
To scale up Anticipatory Action across Malawi by enhancing coordination and harmonisation while strengthening evidence, data, funding, and advocacy

PILLAR 1: Coordination for Anticipatory Action		
Objective:	To strengthen nationally- and locally-led coordination of Anticipatory Action (AA)	
Pillar Leads:	DoDMA, FAO and OCHA	
Facilitation Team:	DRC, MRCS, WFP, UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA	
<u>Outcome 1.1:</u> Strengthened linkages among different, existing disaster risk management coordination platforms	Key actions proposed:	1.1.1 Establish a national AA Technical Working Group (TWG) covering different pillars of the roadmap. 1.1.2 Organise quarterly and ad-hoc meetings at national level. 1.1.3 Organise an annual national dialogue to assess implementation of the AA roadmap. 1.1.4 Facilitate formulation of national AA frameworks for droughts and floods, with sustainable exit strategies in mind. 1.1.5 Organise bi-annual district coordination meetings among AA TWG and other disaster risk management-related committees. 1.1.6 Participate in global and regional AA fora. 1.1.7 Facilitate capacity strengthening of national and local stakeholders involved in AA. 1.1.8 Promote and strengthen coordination among Government, donors, UN agencies, I/NGOs at local and national levels.
<u>Outcome 1.2:</u> Coordinated information management and data sharing	Key actions proposed:	1.2.1 Map and report quarterly and ad hoc meetings taking place at national and district levels through a 5W template. 1.2.2 Jointly develop and disseminate AA monitoring tools. 1.2.3 Utilise existing DoDMA Disaster Information Hub (DIH) to create AA repository for multi-sectoral data, information, studies and research sharing. 1.2.4 Identify an information management focal point to support the AA TWG. 1.2.5 Set up standard operating procedures for AA data generation, management and sharing.

		1.2.6 Strengthen linkages and integration among AA stakeholders to facilitate data collection, analysis, sharing and usage.
Outcome 1.3: **Cross-cutting issues integrated and linkages with the national social protection system strengthened**	Key actions proposed:	1.3.1 Develop AA checklist for the integration of cross-cutting issues (AAP, gender, protection, disability inclusion, environment, etc.). 1.3.2 Facilitate knowledge exchange/good practice on the linkages between AA and the national social protection system. 1.3.3 Involve target populations meaningfully in AA project design and implementation from concept to completion.

PILLAR 2: Harmonised trigger mechanisms for Anticipatory Action		
Objective:		To develop, coordinate, harmonise, validate and monitor triggers and protocols for Anticipatory Action.
Pillar Leads:		DCCSM and WFP
Facilitation Team:		DoDMA, Department Water Resources, MRCS, FAO, UNICEF, UNDP and Save the Children
Outcome 2.1: **Enhanced, coordinated, harmonised, monitored and validated triggers mechanisms**	Key actions proposed:	2.1.1 Establish a Trigger Mechanisms Taskforce. 2.1.2 Develop terms of reference for the Trigger Mechanisms Taskforce. 2.1.3 Conduct quarterly Trigger Mechanisms Taskforce coordination meetings. 2.1.4 Anticipate predictable shocks and risks and strengthen impact-based forecasting analyses. 2.1.5 Conduct scoping exercises to determine and validate trigger mechanisms for hazards, and thresholds for activating Anticipatory Action. 2.1.6 Conduct monitoring of triggers and provisions of alerts. 2.1.7 Develop protocols for trigger validation and activation. 2.1.8 Develop a repository of triggers and incorporate it into the national Disaster Risk Management Information System (DRMIS) platform. 2.1.9 Strengthen the linkages between national early warning systems and AA initiatives.
Outcome 2.1:	Key actions proposed:	2.2.1 Support improvement of forecasting mechanisms. 2.2.2 Support capacity building of local practitioners.

Enhanced institutional capacity for Anticipatory Action		2.2.3 Support research and innovation through engagement of academia. 2.2.4 Conduct sensitisation activities to support communities to better understand triggers and alert messages disseminated.

PILLAR 3: Sustainable and predictable funding for Anticipatory Action		
Objective:		To establish sustainable and predictable financing for Anticipatory Action, which is aligned to the national disaster risk financing strategy.
Pillar Leads:		FCDO and DoDMA
Facilitation Team		Ministry of Finance (Treasury), OCHA, UNDP and IFRC
<u>Outcome 3.1:</u> Coordinated financing efforts for Anticipatory Action interventions	Key actions proposed:	3.1.1 Lobby with donors and Government to allocate adequate financing to AA. 3.1.2 Lobby for the integration and allocation of AA funding into the upcoming Disaster Risk Management Trust Fund. 3.1.3 Develop a dashboard to monitor AA financing pipelines and financing received by relevant actors. 3.1.4 Support capacity development of critical Government departments for application and management of AA financing (e.g. CERF, etc.). 3.1.5 Advocate and facilitate the channelling of AA funding to local authorities.
<u>Outcome 3.2:</u> Developed Anticipatory Action resource mobilisation strategy		3.2.1 Develop resource mobilisation strategy for AA, including conducting a mapping exercise of key donors/financing instruments at local, national and international levels. 3.2.2 Update Disaster Risk Financing Strategy to ensure inclusion of instruments for financing AA.

PILLAR 4: Evidence-based Anticipatory Action advocacy and awareness raising		
Objective:		To advocate for a system-wide shift from reactionary to anticipatory approaches that are evidence-based, multi-sectoral and participatory.
Pillar Leads:		DoDMA, FAO, OCHA and WFP
Facilitation Team:		MRCS, LEAD-SEA, Save the Children, UNFPA and UNICEF
Outcome 4.1: **Evidence and knowledge generated to inform the scale up of Anticipatory Action**	Key actions proposed:	4.1.1 Utilise community-based approaches and practices for the formulation of Anticipatory Action. 4.1.2 Utilise AA data, analyses and research to generate evidence and knowledge. 4.1.3 Increase awareness, uptake and usage of DRMIS to inform AA, and strengthen capacity of the Government in managing the DRMIS. 4.1.4 Integrate knowledge sharing and advocacy into Anticipatory Action project design and implementation. 4.1.5 Raise awareness and build capacities among stakeholders and general public on AA to increase understanding of communities, Government, policy makers and other relevant stakeholders. 4.1.6 Utilise various modalities for information sharing (online, community level, district level fora, TWGs, symposiums, etc.), including on weather forecasts. 4.1.7 Promote data and knowledge sharing that enhances the use and impacts of Anticipatory Action. 4.1.8 Advocate for an Anticipatory Action repository at district and local levels and for academic research in Malawi, alongside the dissemination of learning and messages for Anticipatory Action. 4.1.9 Encourage mindset change through social behaviour communication targeted at both rights holders and duty bearers.
Outcome 4.2: **Anticipatory Action incorporated into policies to improve its adoption across all levels**	Key actions proposed:	4.2.1 Expand existing policies and mandates to incorporate the use of AA. 4.2.2 Strengthen partnerships among the Government, technical institutions, advocacy groups, humanitarian actors, donors, private sector, academia, civil society, and communities.