



# REPORT

3<sup>rd</sup> Africa Dialogue Platform  
on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action

Virtual Edition

27 – 29 October 2020



## List of Abbreviations

ACMAD	African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development	ForPAC	The Forecast-based Preparedness Action
ARC	African Risk Capacity	GPPI	Global Public Policy Institute
CEWARN	Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism	GRC	German Red Cross
CILSS	Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel	HSNP	Hunger Safety Net Programme
CLCPRO	FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region	IBF	Impact-based Forecasting
COVID-19	Corona virus	IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
CRS	Crisis Response Summaries	IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
DREA	Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
DRF	Disaster Risk Financing	NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	NMHS	National Meteorological and Hydrological Services
EAP	Early Action Protocol	OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
EAT	East African Time	RCRC	Red Cross Red Crescent
EU	European Union	REAP	Risk Informed Early Action Partnerships
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	RVF	Rift Valley Fever
FATHUM	Forecasts for Anticipatory Humanitarian Action	SE-CNSA	National Council on Food Security
FbF	Forecast-based Financing	UN	United Nations
GFFO	German Federal Foreign Office	UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
FOREWARN	Forecast-based Warning, Analysis and Response Network	WFP	World Food Programme of the United Nations

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# OFFICIAL OPENING

→ The 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action took place virtually from the 27th to the 29th of October 2020 under the theme of, 'Scaling up Anticipatory Humanitarian Action in Africa'. The event was held virtually due to the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic. **The event attracted over 300 participants from 50 countries, from Africa and beyond.** Participants included representatives from over 100 organizations including 36 government actors, 68 from the United Nations bodies, 31 participants from academia, 38 Non- Governmental Organizations (NGOs) actors, and at least 119 Red Cross Red Crescent Movement participants.

The event was organized jointly by the Anticipation Hub and hosted by the German Red Cross (GRC) and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with support from the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre (RCCC) and the Start Network. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action was funded by Germany's Federal Foreign Office and translations from English into Arabic, French and Portuguese were provided through European Union (EU) funding.

During the three-day conference, participants shared and discussed opportunities and barriers to scaling up anticipatory action in the African context. Interactive panels and sessions were attended by representatives from various sectors like government, academia, practitioners, and Red Cross Red Crescent National Society members. Partnerships and collaborations were recognized as crucial ingredients for the success of scaling up and strengthening anticipatory action in Africa. Lessons learned and experiences on how to best deal with the impacts of a global pandemic such as COVID-19 were shared. In between panels and sessions, participants had the opportunity to mingle online for virtual networking and further exchange.

3<sup>rd</sup> Africa Dialogue Platform  
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DAY  
ONE

# Opening Speeches

→ Day one started with the official welcome to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa Dialogue Platform in a virtual format. An overview was given on the agenda and technicalities followed by the introduction of Forecast-based Financing and anticipatory action in Africa. The official opening then continued with keynote address' and speeches from the invited guest speakers.

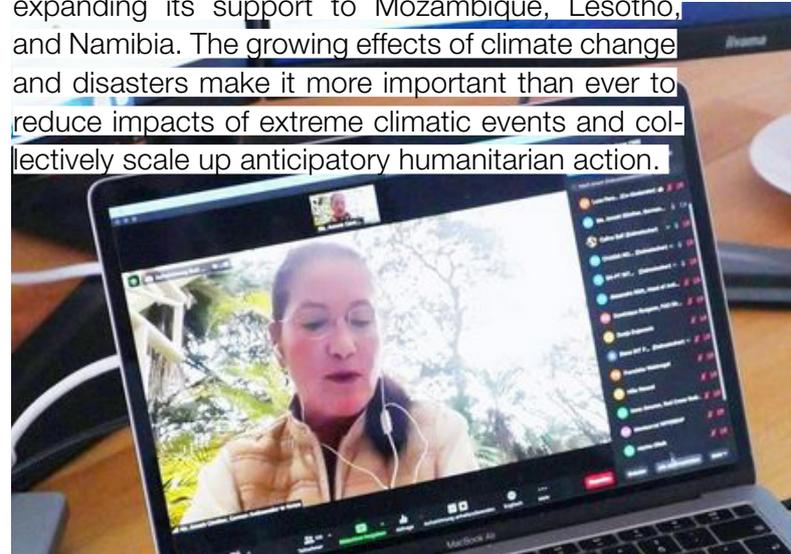


## Annett Günther

*German Ambassador to Kenya, German Embassy in Nairobi*

The German Ambassador to Kenya, Annett Günther, welcomed participants by highlighting the importance of a people-centered approach to anticipatory humanitarian action and engaging local communities. She underlined the significance of specific regional perspectives to be considered. The German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) has been a proud supporter of anticipatory humanitarian action and Forecast-based Financing for the past six years. To date, anticipatory humanitarian action has been implemented in 60 countries worldwide, of which 26 countries are in Africa, and the GFFO has committed

to further scale up early actions in the region, expanding its support to Mozambique, Lesotho, and Namibia. The growing effects of climate change and disasters make it more important than ever to reduce impacts of extreme climatic events and collectively scale up anticipatory humanitarian action.

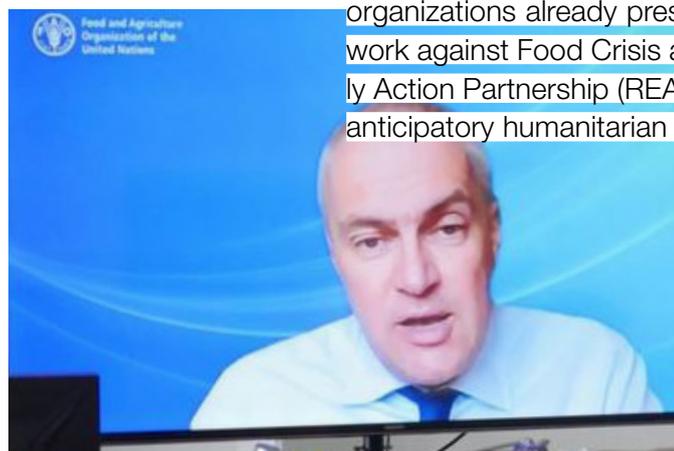


## Dominique Burgeon

*Director of Emergencies, Food and Agriculture Organization*

Dominique Burgeon emphasized the importance of partnerships to scale up anticipatory humanitarian action. He emphasized that FAO is implementing Early Warning Early Action projects in Africa, where recently early actions reduced the negative impact of desert locusts on livelihoods and food security.

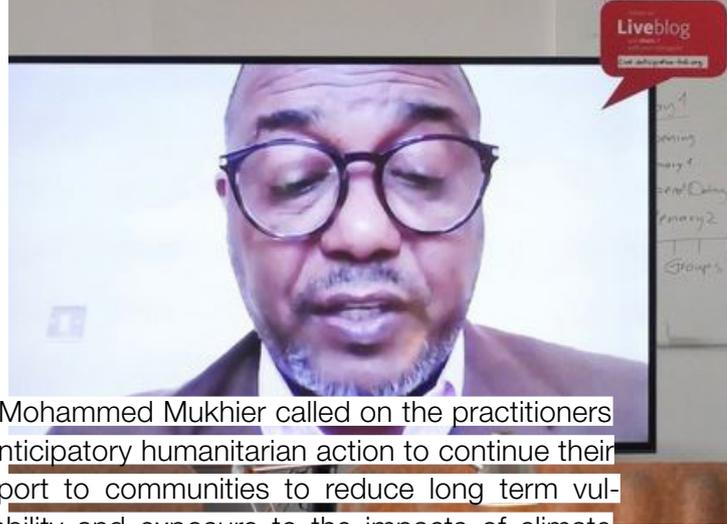
Across Africa, and specifically in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe, FAO supported measures to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on food systems, markets, and agriculture. Mr. Burgeon elaborated that FAO is also piloting anticipatory humanitarian action approaches to anticipate conflict in Africa. Collaboration across organizations already present within the Global Network against Food Crisis and the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP) are key to fully scale up anticipatory humanitarian action.





**Mohammed Mukhier**  
Regional Director Africa, IFRC

The IFRC Regional Director for Africa Mohammed Mukhier, highlighted that Africa is currently facing several multi-faceted and overlapping disasters and crises including the current COVID-19 pandemic. In October alone the Red Cross in Nigeria reported that over 150 people have died and around 25,000 persons were displaced because of flooding in September; in South Sudan, 625,000 people have been affected by floods in 34 of the 79 counties. While in Sudan, floods and landslides have destroyed or damaged 166,000 houses and almost 830,000 people were critically affected.

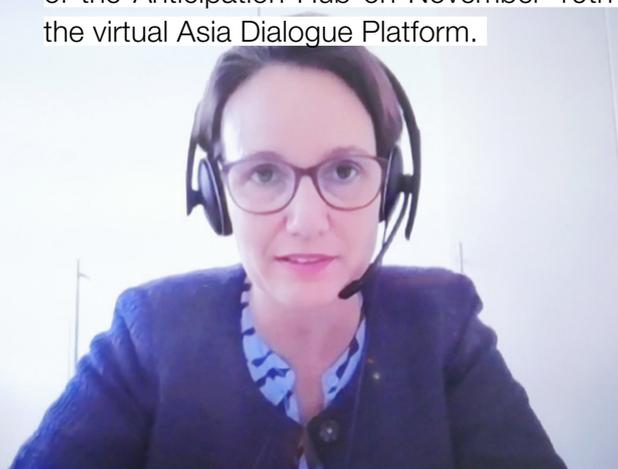


Mr. Mohammed Mukhier called on the practitioners of anticipatory humanitarian action to continue their support to communities to reduce long term vulnerability and exposure to the impacts of climate change, improve Early Warning Systems and anticipate disasters. With the introduction of Forecast-based Financing, which is momentarily being implemented with 14 African National Societies, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement translates early warnings into early actions to provide humanitarian assistance.



**Alexandra R  th**  
Head of the Anticipation Hub, German Red Cross

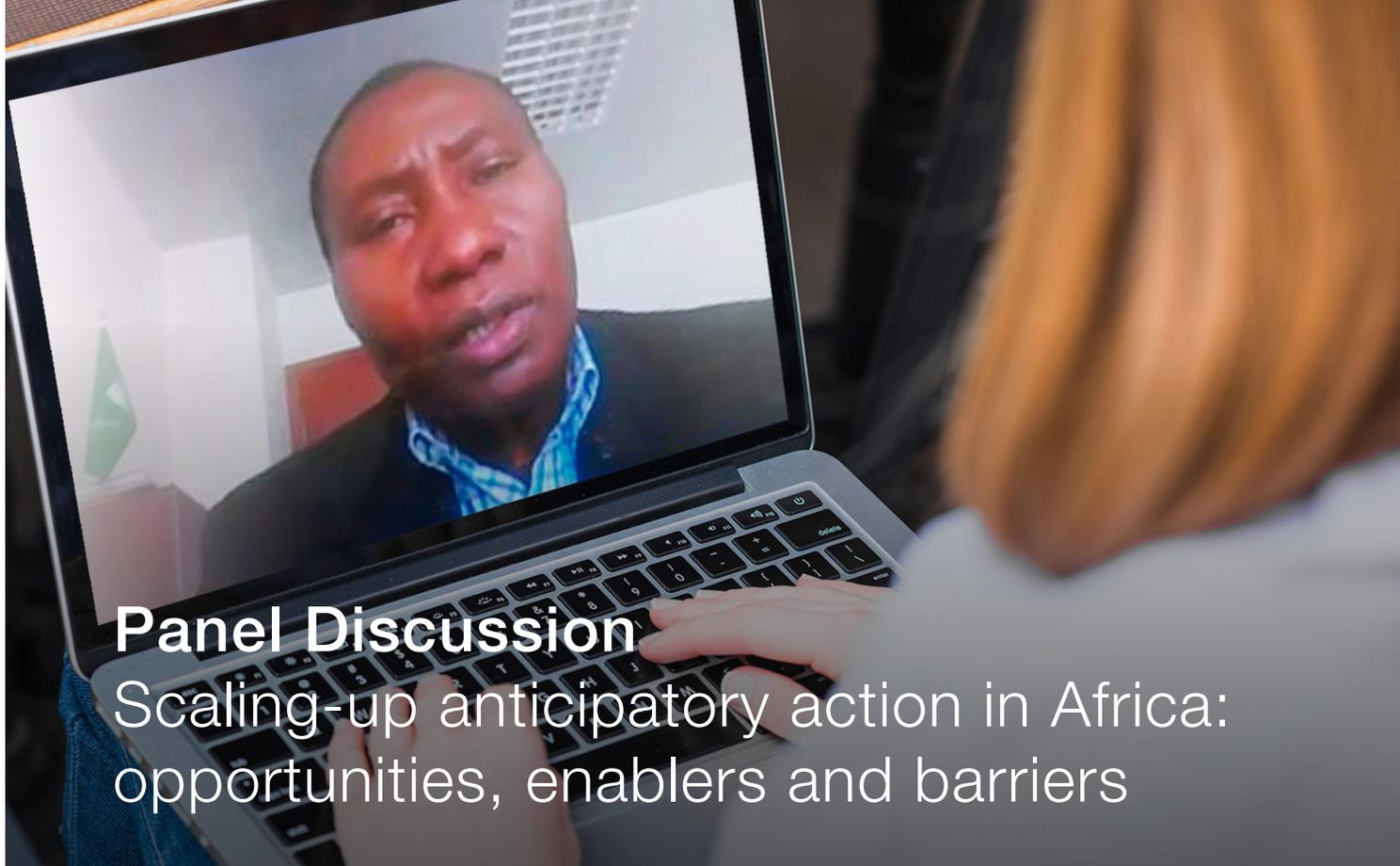
In her opening speech, Alexandra R  th, Head of the Anticipation Hub, emphasized the role of the Anticipation Hub in support of anticipatory humanitarian action in Africa. The Hub will serve as a knowledge and exchange platform with the aim to facilitate regular discussion between practitioners and researchers. By sharing experiences and lessons learned and fostering collaboration on emerging topics, the Hub will stimulate learning, innovation, and exchange. It will connect the dots between those seeking advice on anticipatory action and the ones who can offer it and strengthen joint advocacy efforts by establishing shared messages and advocacy tools. Alexandra R  th invited everyone to attend the soft launch of the Anticipation Hub on November 19th during the virtual Asia Dialogue Platform.



We have so many stories to tell, experiences to share and lessons to learn from each other. We are continuously learning from our successes and mistakes through project implementation in more than 60 countries worldwide and specifically around 26 in Africa. The Anticipation Hub can map these initiatives, capture their learnings, make them easily accessible in one place and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and learnings from one partner to another.

Alexandra R  th





## Panel Discussion

# Scaling-up anticipatory action in Africa: opportunities, enablers and barriers

### Panellists:

**Dr Godfrey Bahigwa**, Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission, Director

**Emmah Mwanghi**, Kenya Red Cross, Acting Climate Research Manager

**Dr Tobias Pforr**, University of Reading, Postdoctoral Research Assistant–Political Economy of FbF

**Brian Bogart**, UN World Food Program East and Central Africa Bureau, Programme Officer

**Amadou Diallo**, Start Network, Regional Disaster Risk Finance Advisor



### Facilitators:

**Maurine Ambani**,  
*WFP*  
**Phoebe Shikuku**,  
*IFRC*

The objective of this panel discussion was to identify barriers, opportunities and enabling factors to further scale up anticipatory action in Africa. While many pilots have already been implemented on the continent, even more can be done to scaling up anticipatory action if the lessons learned are considered. This session aimed at drawing out some of the ways forward for scaling up anticipatory action in Africa.

## Dr Godfrey Bahiigwa

Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA), African Union Commission, Director

Dr Godfrey Bahiigwa of the AUC reported that cross border disasters such as floods, desert locusts and Ebola were increasingly intense and frequent in Eastern- and Central Africa, in West Africa, and Southern Africa. He further emphasized that the world is more uncertain which is counteractive to anticipation and therefore presents a challenge to scaling up anticipatory action.



## Emma Mwangi

Kenya Red Cross, Acting Climate Research Manager

The Forecast-based Preparedness Action (ForPac) project in Kenya demonstrated the ability of anticipatory action for drought based on seasonal forecasts produced by the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS). According to Emma Mwangi, it is already possible in July to forecast levels of rainfall for October to December of the same year allowing for a window of opportunity to act. This drought forecasting prototype was developed by evaluating the existing structures, engaging relevant stakeholders, building their capacity, and producing information for action. She noted that ensuring sustainability and ownership of the drought forecasting prototype is an ongoing process, but it is crucial to continuously feed relevant climate information into the forecasting system. She concluded on the need to continue the scaling up anticipatory humanitarian action focusing on drought, the need for a more enabling policy environment, and that more coordination efforts and funding is needed.



## Dr Tobias Pforr

Forecasts for Anticipatory Humanitarian Action (FATHUM), University of Reading, Postdoctoral Research Assistant for Political Economy of FbF

Dr Tobias emphasized that scaling up anticipatory action needs to be clearly defined before the process can be embarked upon. This is because the process of scaling up is a multitude of overlapping processes moving at different speeds and encountering setbacks and errors. The process must therefore be constantly monitored to assure it is still on track. Different forms and definitions of scaling up anticipation were either about adding to the number of pilot projects in the coming years or rather increasing the size of the projects in terms of more resources or reaching a higher number of affected populations more sustainably. Dr Tobias Pforr shared his experience that many practitioners aim to scale up anticipatory action by integrating it into international and national governance structures, reaching down to the regional- and the individual level.



## Brian Bogart

UN World Food Program East and Central Africa Bureau, Programme Officer

Anticipatory action, especially for forecasting drought in Southern Africa, is a core business rather than a pilot effort, according to Brian Bogart especially in the context of food security and nutrition needs in the region. Anticipatory action offers a significant window of opportunity to forecast rainfall in the region, which occurs generally from October to March with harvesting season in April and May and the seasonal assessments taking place in August. A forecast-based approach can help to estimate needs from March or even February with reasonable accuracy to guide the planning process, to begin the conversations on where WFP will – collectively with partners and governments – focus its efforts.



## Amadou Diallo

Start Network, Regional Disaster Risk Financing Advisor

The ARC Replica project in Senegal was introduced as a partnership between the Start Network and its members Catholic Relief Services, Action against Hunger, Oxfam, World Vision and Plan International, the Government of Senegal, African Risk Capacity and funded by the German government. In 2020, the project assisted 270,000 people. According to Mr. Amadou Diallo it was crucial to consult communities to see sustainable implementation of anticipatory action. The ARC Replica project experienced three main barriers to anticipatory action and scaling up efforts. The first barrier being a conservative mindset when stakeholders fail to see the urgency to act in advance and are rather used to waiting for the disaster to strike before acting. Secondly, often cultural beliefs in Africa inhibit people to project a negative future and therefore refuse to participate in building a contingency plan. Costs and lack of technical expertise needed to establish disaster risk financing systems were another key barrier: “Many governments have the political will but lack financial resources and, on some occasions, technical expertise”. Amadou Diallo emphasized the need to see to what extent the African governments can be supported to put in place the institutional infrastructures needed.

### Community participation

Month	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
Activities							🎯	🎯	🎯	🎯	🎯	🎯
							📦	📦	📦	📦	📦	📦
							🔊	🔊	🔊	🔊	🔊	🔊
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Icons: Sureeh Savari, Newicon, Andi Nur Abdillah; Images: Oh from the Nioun Project



3<sup>rd</sup> Africa Dialogue Platform  
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DAY  
TWO



# Panel Discussion

## Collaborations & partnerships: an ingredient for successful anticipatory action

### Panellists:

**Leon Guy Razafindrakoto**, African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development, Head of Weather Watch and Forecasting Department

**Dr Wamalwa Kinyanjui**, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) & Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development, Animal Health Expert

**Dr Liz Stevens**, University of Reading, FATHUM, Forecasts for Anticipatory HUMANitarian action, Assistant Professor

**Brian Kanahe**, Uganda Red Cross, Manager Community Resilience

**Patricia Nying'uro**, Kenya Met Office, Principal Meteorologist

**Mohamed Yarrow**, Centre for Peace and Democracy, Nexus – Somali-locally led Consortium member, Director



### Facilitators:

**Alexandra R uth**,  
GRC

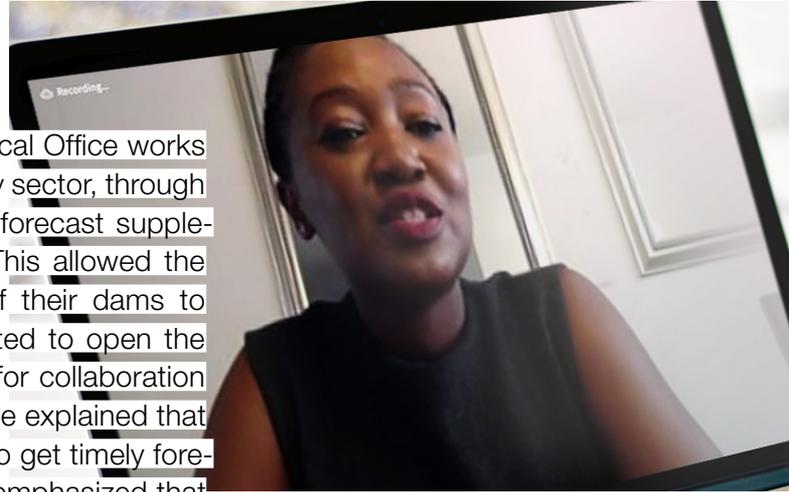
**Irene Amuron**,  
RCCC

The objective of this panel discussion was to highlight the importance of partnerships and collaboration for successful set-up of Forecast-based Financing systems. Showcasing good practice and successful examples of collaboration helped to understand the process better. The presentation of the Anticipation Hub underlined how it can foster collaboration and partnerships in Africa.

## Patricia Nying'uro

Kenya Met Office, Principal Meteorologist

Patricia Nying'uro highlighted that Kenya Meteorological Office works with various partners. They collaborate with the energy sector, through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide forecast supplementary information to plan their energy activities. This allowed the energy sector to warn communities downstream of their dams to safeguard their lives and property in case they wanted to open the dam. When asked where she could see opportunity for collaboration between her office and humanitarian stakeholders, she explained that they already work closely with the Kenya Red Cross to get timely forecast information tailored to their specific needs. She emphasized that one highlight of her work is the collaboration with recipients and learning about users' needs.



## Brian Kanaahe

Uganda Red Cross, Manager Community Resilience

Brian Kanaahe was posed the question how his organization currently collaborates. He explained that the Uganda Red Cross fosters partnerships mainly at the local and national level. Locally, the goal is to create meaningful partnerships with close linkages to the local context encouraging engagement by community actors and agencies and define what anticipatory action means in practice. At the national level, cooperation with government, academia, national hydrometeorological services is crucial to ensure that early actions are reflected in local policies, such as climate change policy and bills. He specified that academia supports them in providing scientific knowledge and helps to verify triggers and provide hazard information. They work with both local and international institutions, and see more universities being involved.



## Dr Liz Stephens

University of Reading, FATHUM, Forecasts for Anticipatory HUMANitarian action, Associate Professor

On the question what scientists can bring to the table, Dr Liz Stephens pointed out, that this kind of collaboration can bring long term capacity building, for example close exchange between research teams and forecasting agencies and established evidence as experienced between Forecast for Anticipatory Humanitarian Action (FATHUM) and Makerere University. She emphasized that the role of research is important for anticipatory action in that interdisciplinary partnerships between science and operations bring varied and rich insights which can feed the latest science into the Early Action Protocols. Generally, a close cooperation between science and research and the implementation level of anticipatory action is crucial for its success.



## Leon Guy Razafindrakoto

African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), Head of Weather Watch and Forecasting Department

Leon Razafindrakoto, in response to a question on what collaboration is needed to move towards impact forecasting, proposed three areas of cooperation for climate services. Firstly, it is important to support the hydro-meteorological observation facilities using satellites and climate data for monitoring. Secondly, institutional collaboration between the local and international levels of meteorological services and humanitarian actors is needed, and lastly the dissemination of meteorological information like forecasts and data is important when reaching out to local communities. Leon concluded that incredible scientific advancements have allowed the NMHS to predict and issue early warnings for anticipatory action. The past loss of human life and property due to meteorological hazards further stresses the need for forecasts to be credible so that the humanitarian community can use them for planning and decision making. He pointed out that his agency uses six forecasting models but takes care to not duplicate and use the already existing models. The next step for strengthening impact-based forecasting according to Leon, is a cooperation with IFRC in Niger to jointly frame and disseminate data at the national level to be upscaled regionally.

## Mohamed Yarrow

Centre for Peace and Democracy, Nexus Somali-locally led Consortium Member, Director

Mohamed Yarrow spoke about how his organization supports anticipatory humanitarian action at the local level. They did this by firstly including anticipatory humanitarian action as one of their key strategic pillars last year and secondly by operationalizing this ambition this year by developing an Anticipatory Fund hosted by their local members (locally led and owned consortium). The Fund within Nexus is available to quickly respond to small and medium shocks at the local level undetected by big actors. Communities themselves must identify activities to be supported in and a committee decides on applicants. It has a response window of 60 days and a value of 80,000 Euros. It is linked to other responses and programmes to achieve a Nexus. It ensures strong engagement of communities and local partners. In the long term, they want the government to eventually embed this fund and they are supporting them to build capacity as emphasized by Mohamed Yarrow.



**Leon Guy  
RAZAFINDRAKOTO**

African Center of Meteorological  
Applications for Development (ACMAD)  
Head of Weather Watch and Forecasting  
Department



**Mohamed Yarrow**

Centre for Peace and Democracy  
(Director); Nexus Somali-locally led  
Consortium Member

3 SHORT QUESTIONS 

**Dr Wamalwa Kinyanjui**

Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Animal Health Expert

Dr Wamalwa Kinyanjui introduced the Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development and how they support anticipatory action in the pastoral and livestock sector under drought. The centre supports countries to implement anticipatory action in mostly arid and semi-arid regions by providing technical support on livestock feeding or linking early warning systems with pasture management. He added that forecasts of diseases provide valuable information for the development of livestock early warning systems, which were developed with a lead time of six months. Triggers may be activated to initiate early actions to save livestock. The center also implements activities to provide sufficient water resources in case of droughts, provides insurance schemes and supports cross-regional cooperation dialogue.

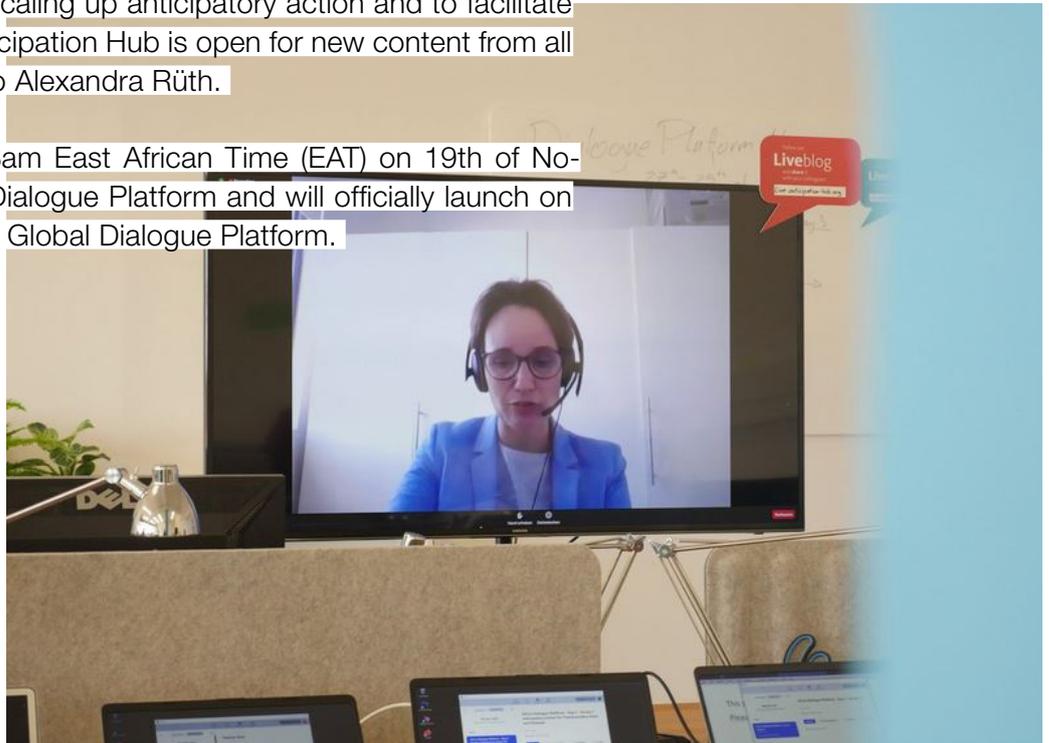


**Alexandra R uth**

Anticipation Hub, German Red Cross, Head of the Anticipation Hub

Alexandra R uth presented the Anticipation Hub. She shared that it supports the anticipation community to foster further dialogue and establish further partnerships in the region. It specifically supports the discussion on general challenges, the mapping of information to help provide an overview for scaling up anticipatory action and to facilitate working groups. The Anticipation Hub is open for new content from all its members according to Alexandra R uth.

The Hub will go live at 8am East African Time (EAT) on 19th of November during the Asia Dialogue Platform and will officially launch on December 8th during the Global Dialogue Platform.



# Learning & Exchange

**Phoebe Shikuku**, IFRC, Regional Advisor on FbF and DRR

**Jurg Wilbrink**, IFRC, DRR & FbF Advisor Southern Africa

**Anna Lena Huhn**, GRC, Regional FbF Delegate Southern Africa

**Dr Brian Kanaahe**, Uganda Red Cross, Manager Community Resilience

**Jasper Batureine Mwesigwa**, Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD),  
Regional Food Security Analyst, Regional Food Security Analyst

The objective of this session was to learn more about the current ongoing collaboration and cooperation of stakeholders working on anticipatory action in Africa and to receive input on the potential angles of cooperation from actors working in the realm of anticipatory action.

Since 2015, when GRC established the FbF initiative, much has been done to further develop the anticipatory approach qualitatively, and in scale involving a plethora of stakeholders including the RCRC Movement, UN organizations, governments, academia, communities, and meteorological institutions, including but not limited to RCRC, WFP, FAO and the Start Network. Increasingly, supported through the World Meteorological Organization, regional and national meteorological organizations are focusing on the forecasting of weather and climate impacts, rather than 'just' the weather – through the Impact-based Forecasting (IBF) approach. Many advances were achieved by collaborating with these meteorological institutions as well as with higher learning such as Universities and Climate Science Organizations. We have learnt that access to public data sets and how to manipulate them is not a given. Different organizations, although having slightly different approaches to anticipatory action, have made great progress on the topic. The engagement

of the key players in anticipatory action is key for several reasons: sharing of learning from the pilots; exchanges of knowledge on the concept of anticipatory action; synergy creation for advocacy and resource mobilization. In this session participants explored opportunities through presented examples for strengthened collaboration at the regional, - cluster- and National Society level such as the Africa Wide Regional Coordination meetings, regional groups for Eastern and Southern Africa and in-country multi-stakeholder coordination meetings.

“

Together with a diverse group of Southern Africa stakeholders we are developing a strategy to make anticipatory action more effective and to bring it to scale.

Jurg Wilbrink, IFRC

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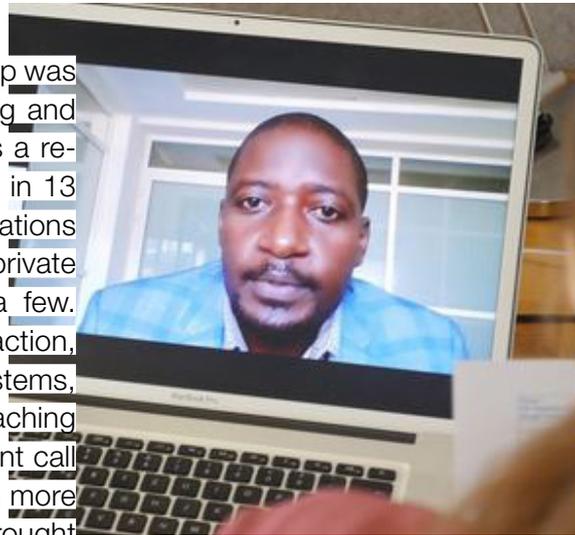


In Africa, with the momentum for anticipatory humanitarian action picking up, as the Red Cross Red Crescent we encourage learning and exchange to support peer-to-peer learning, capacity building and information sharing, also with a view to scale up, especially for transboundary disasters.

Phoebe Shikuku, IFRC

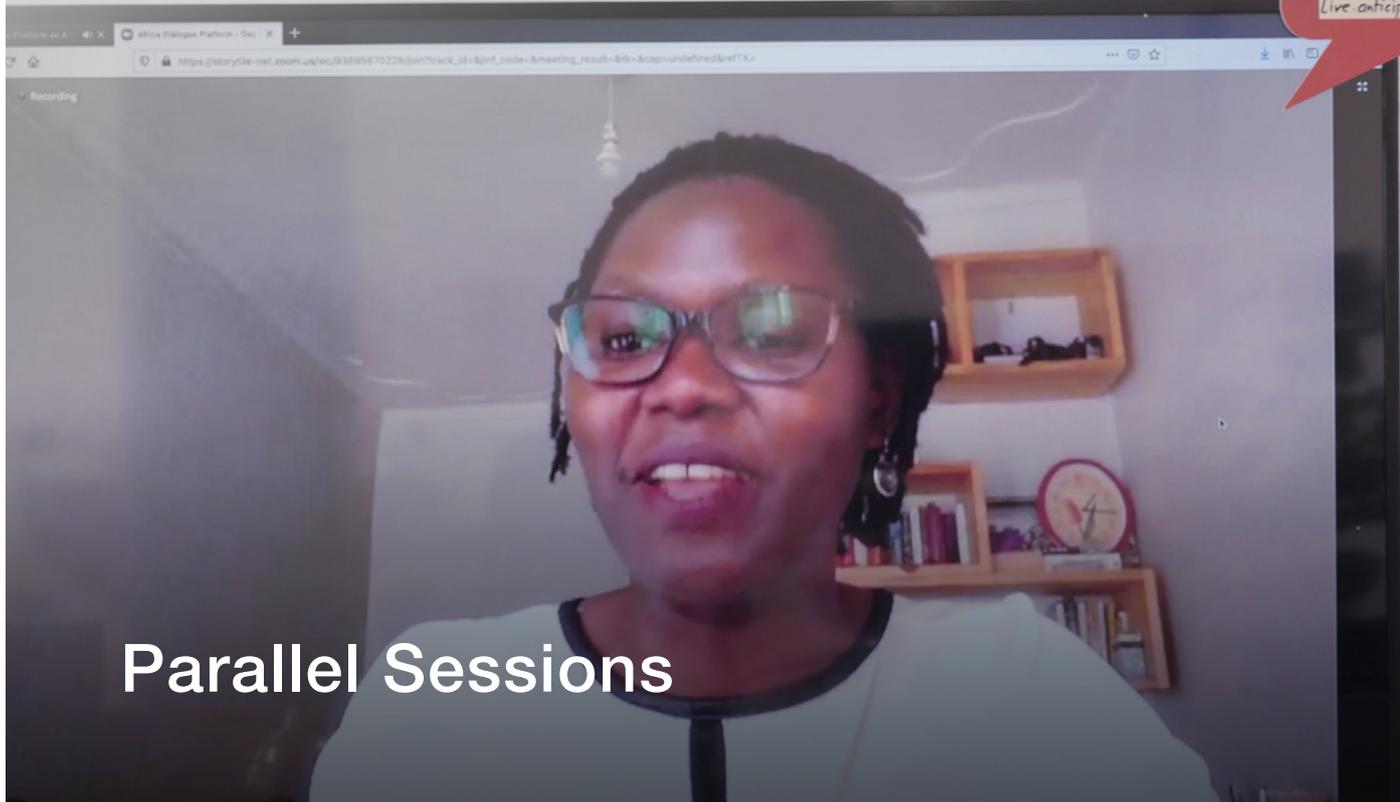


The Food Security and Nutrition Working Group was presented as an example for regional learning and exchange in Eastern- and Central Africa. It is a regional platform co-chaired by IGAD and FAO in 13 countries with more than 80 member organizations ranging from the United Nations, NGOs, the private sector, and research institutions to name a few. Members jointly advocate for anticipatory action, improved risk analysis and Early Warning Systems, and initiate alerts along with reports on approaching hazards. They have successfully initiated a joint call for action with WFP, FAO und UNICEF raising more than 500 million US-Dollars in 2019 for the drought in the Horn of Africa.



Another example for regional cooperation is the FbF Southern Africa Project supported by GRC. The project fosters peer-to-peer learning between countries to streamline the process of setting up FbF and the development of Early Action Protocols. The project covers Mozambique, Namibia, and Lesotho with drought as the current hazard focus. Despite the quite different country contexts, the exchange fosters significant learning between the National Societies, whereby the challenges but also opportunities, are shared to foster a supportive and collaborative learning environment.





## Parallel Sessions

### Session One: FbF adaptation to emerging risks: drought doctor-patient clinic

This session on adapting FbF to emerging risks with the example of drought, provided learnings on the progress made here in Africa, key lessons from implementation and advice provided by practitioners in Africa on developing anticipatory action for drought. The session started with presentations given by Meghan Bailey from RCCC, Luca Parodi of FAO and Maurine Ambani of WFP presenting their experiences in implementing anticipatory action for drought in Africa. Key lessons FAO shared were to use a phased approach to trigger action, triggers should be adapted to the seasons, different indicators should be combined, clear and precise Standard Operating Procedures are needed and lastly to evaluate and build evidence on the approach. According to Alindo Meque of WFP, droughts are on the rise in the Southern African region especially, but their project was able to reduce the risk faced by communities for example through the FoodSECuRE project.

This forecasted below-than-average rainfall and activated a trigger which forecasted precipitation for three-month period as equal or below 20% of the long-term median. Following the distribution of seeds, fertilizer, tools, and trainings on conservative agriculture, 11% rise in agricultural production value and food insecurity was less for the target group.



#### Facilitators:

**Irene Amuron & Dorothy Heinrich**  
RCCC

**Shirin Merola**  
WFP



#### Presenters:

**Meghan Bailey**  
RCCC

**Luca Parodi**  
FAO

**Maurine Ambani**  
WFP

## Session Two: anticipatory action for transboundary pests and diseases: case studies of recent desert locust and rift valley fever programmes

This session's goal was to bring together technical experts on both early warning and anticipatory action related to transboundary pests and diseases to discuss the ongoing early warning work and triggers related to both Desert Locusts and the Rift Valley Fever.

The Desert Locusts and the Rift Valley Fever (RVF) are both transboundary pests and diseases, which have been combatted by anticipatory action, according to Cyril Ferrand. FAO is using anticipatory action to mitigate the impact of the RVF as a pilot in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. They have developed a decision support tool based on input from experts in-country, the national- and the regional level to better understand risks and make informed decisions. The tool uses a cloud system and is based on a dynamic model developed by NASA. It visualizes the fever as well as geographical information, the vegetation and provides a rapid risk assessment.

The anticipation approach to forecast the impact of the Desert Locust is in the testing phase. It combines data on soil moisture, breeding routines, development and routes of the animals, GIS applications and satellite data amongst other. Data management is very important for the success of the model in mitigating the risk. Aside from the development of the model itself, it is important to provide capacity building on how to use it whilst testing the model further and at the same time use community-based surveillance systems. While the tracking worked and alerts were raised, early warning does not always translate into early actions.



Quite interesting as well – if you are able to treat a swarm with bio-pesticides - that takes more time. You can put some trackers on them for 14 days and you can see if they are dying.

Cyril Ferrand, Resilience Team Leader East Africa, FAO



### Facilitators:

Abdi Jama  
IGAD

Brenda Lazarus  
FAO

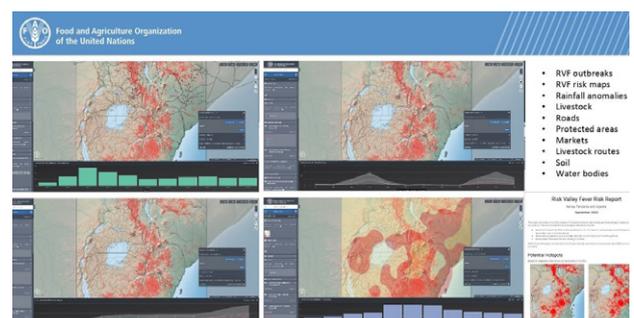


### Presenters:

Cyril Ferrand  
FAO

Hichem Dridi  
FAO

Reine Anani  
FAO



## Session Three: urban FbF and social protection: disclosing challenges and opportunities from the field

Implementation of Forecast-based Financing in urban areas continues to grow albeit rather slowly. However, the recent COVID-19 pandemic exposed vulnerabilities among the urban poor communities sparking debates and reignited new aspirations to build resilience for the urban poor. This session therefore focused on distilling emerging lessons related to implementation of Forecast-based Financing in the urban context and began with Eddie Jjemba sharing his own story of rural to urban migration in Sub-Saharan Africa. Often, informal settlements are the first point of arrival in urban areas coming from rural regions, which lack public services, infrastructure but are exposed to environmental and social risks like economic insecurity. National social protection systems can provide support to the urban poor and informal workers as witnessed in the massive scale-up of different forms of social protection schemes in response to COVID-19. Social protection measures are defined as government policies and programmes that are designed to help the chronically poor and vulnerable, but some of these scheme components have the potential to be used for responding to shocks by supporting people to deal with disaster or crisis. For example, the Cold Weather Payment system in the United Kingdom triggers automatic cash payments to low-income households already poor and registered for government social assistance, following a period of five consecutive days below zero degrees to compensate for the increasing heating costs.

Another example is the government of Kenya's Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP) in Kenya, supported by the Kenya Red Cross Society and other humanitarian agencies, who support the scale-up of cash-assistance to pre-registered households in case of droughts. Payments to different categories of pre-registered poor, near poor and moderately poor are made as the drought worsens. The triggers for payments are linked to drought forecasts which use vegetation index to monitor the impact on drought across vast areas.

Similarly, the Kenyan Red Cross supported the government to reach urban poor in response to COVID-19 by piggybacking of the government national single registry under the Inua Jamii Social Protection programme, using their lists to verify and reach a total of 40,000 households in the country, with the majority being in Nairobi and Mombasa urban informal settlements. This included top-ups to existing government beneficiaries as well as to expanding the caseload to newly poor because of the pandemic.

Limited examples exist of social protection being integrated into anticipatory action programming leaving room for improvement. In general, some evidence suggests that integrating social protection programming into anticipation approaches in an urban context would provide both short-term and long-term sustainable benefits for both the vulnerable population and governments. However, more research and evidence building is necessary in this area.



### Facilitators:

**Eddie Jjemba & Cecilia Costella**  
RCCC



### Presenters:

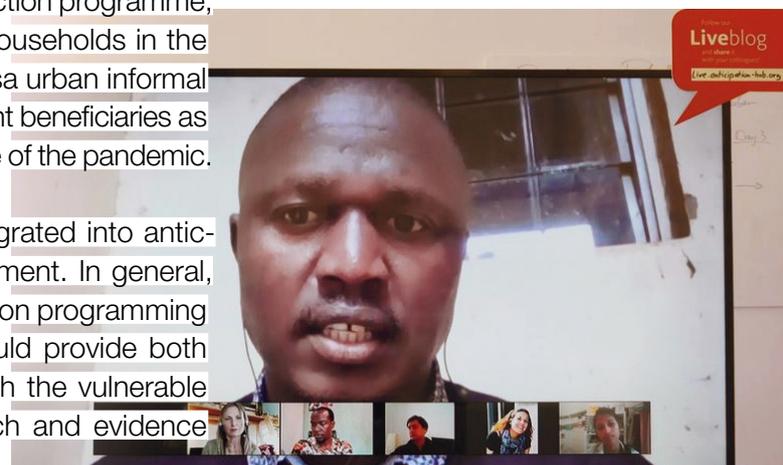
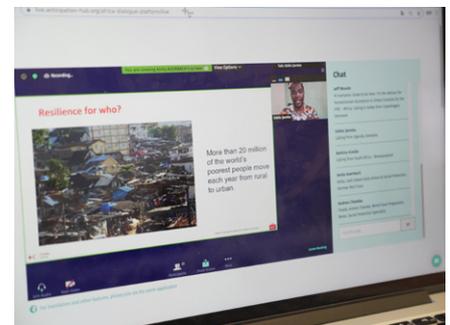
**Anita Auerbach**  
GRC

**Fred Orimba**  
Kenya Red Cross

**Cecilia Costella**  
RCCC

**Andres Chamba**  
WFP

**Sayanti Sengupta**  
RCCC





3<sup>rd</sup> Africa Dialogue Platform  
on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action –  
Virtual Edition

# DAY THREE



## Panellists:

**Jean Pierre Senghor**, National Council on Food Security (SE-CNSA), Government of Senegal Minister Counsellor to the President of the Republic, Executive Secretary

**Mahalmoudou Hamadoun**, Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), Coordinator Regional Program on Food Security

**Cumba Sow**, FAO, Sub Regional Coordinator for Resilience West Africa and Sahel

**Ruth Hill**, Centre for Disaster Protection, Chief Economist

**Rui Alberto Oliveira**, IFRC Africa, Manager COVID-19



## Facilitators:

**Phoebe Shikuku**,  
IFRC

**Luca Parodi**,  
FAO

The aim of this panel was to understand how anticipation approaches were used to react or perhaps even anticipated some of the impacts of COVID-19. Furthermore, mutual learning was to be fostered and insights for scaling up anticipatory action in the future provided.

Taking stock of anticipatory action experiences under COVID-19 over the past eight months, the panelists highlighted their main challenges but also achievements. On governmental level, food security was a main concern of the emergency plan in Senegal releasing 123 million US-Dollars to ensure investments in agriculture for food security

during the pandemic. The process was closely monitored to counter risks of underlying political motivation. In the Sahel region, the effects of COVID-19 worsened the already dire circumstances created by drought. The CILSS acted early based on key information available and swiftly implemented mitigation actions at country level such as distribution of food and cash or subsidizing food items, 'Cash for Work' programmes and support for livestock and water and electricity costs. For FAO, the pandemic once more highlighted the importance of assessing and understanding the social and economic impact of crises along the whole value chain. Assessing potential impacts at the start of COVID-19 assured that this was possible. The funding through partnerships with governments and donors for anticipatory action especially in the context of COVID-19 however remains a challenge. The global funding needs to be upscaled for anticipatory action.



“

We have not finished learning. We see that this crisis is here to stay, and it is very challenging because of the various layers that come along with it.

Coumba Sow, FAO Sub Regional Coordinator for Resilience, West Africa and Sahel

”



## Parallel Sessions

### Session One: anticipatory action and conflict in Africa: what is the way forward?

Anticipatory action for conflict is needed in Africa, especially in insecure regions like Central Sahel. Participants learned in this session that so far, anticipatory action can be based on forecasts of hydro-meteorological hazards in conflict settings, or it is based on forecasts of a conflict. In the first case, the goal is to act early in anticipation of a climate-related hazards set in a conflict area and when anticipating a conflict itself, the aim is to act early in anticipation of the humanitarian impacts of violent conflict. However, putting it into practice, the availability and sharing of needed data in conflicts is challenging as experienced in Mali and elsewhere. Here, cooperation with local communities helped to access data and transfer it to the national Met Service. What is also crucial for anticipation in conflict settings is the collaboration with government for security regulations. Often, food security is a major issue especially in rural conflict settings, like in West Africa and Sahel. The population relies on agriculture and livestock here and proximity to natural resources is another risk for conflict. These needs must be addressed quickly, before it escalates in the future.



#### Facilitators:

**Brenda Lazarus**  
FAO

**Irene Amuron**  
RCCC



#### Presenters:

**Marie Wagner**  
GPPI

**Luca Parodi**  
FAO

**Bethlehem Abebe**  
CEWARN

**Leonardo Milano**  
OCHA

**Abdouramane Gado**  
RCCC

## Session Two: sustainable financing for anticipatory action at scale in Africa: integrating anticipatory action in national disaster risk financing strategies

Increasing flexible and sustainable funding mechanisms are key for scaling up anticipatory action in Africa. This remains a challenge however, because the risk of acting in vain presents an issue when advocating for more funds from organizations, governments, and the private sector. Collaboration and coordination between stakeholders must be embraced for success, especially for the ‘seven habits for highly efficient disaster risk financing’. The principles are already being put into practice such as focusing on risks impacting the most vulnerable, trigger finance in time for early actions, monitoring, and evaluation of financing practices, embed risk management locally, clear payment terms are needed, alignment of Disaster Risk Financing (DRF) with already established national finance systems. Find more about the DRF principles [here](#).



**Facilitator:**  
**Sibi Lawson-Marriott**  
*WFP*



**Presenters:**  
**Erastus Wahome**  
*Kenya Ministry of Finance*

**Halima Saado**  
*Kenya Red Cross*

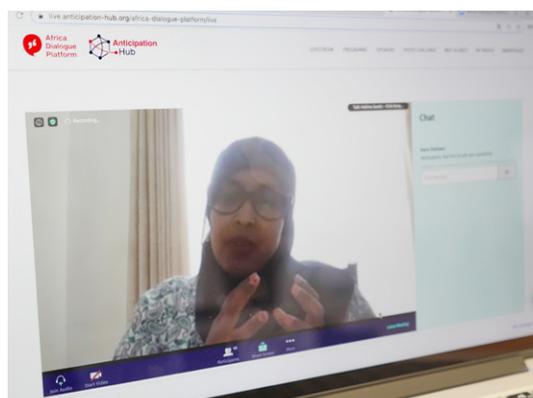
**Danilo Atienza**  
*Provincial Disaster Risk Management Office of the Government of the Philippines*

**Lorraine Njue**  
*African Risk Capacity Ltd*



We are advising nations, especially African nations, to build national capacities for financing that cover the different phases of the disaster risk management cycle, just as we are trying to do with our disaster risk financing framework and fund – disasters shall not be a surprise anymore. We need to have predictable funding; we shall not have to wait for humanitarian financing, and we want to reduce the dependency on external financing.

Erastus Wahome, Kenya Ministry of Finance



POST-DISASTER  
ACTION



I DON'T KNOW,  
SOMEHOW YOUR  
WAY SEEMS  
MORE RISKY.

PRE-DISASTER  
ADVICE



### Session Three: virtually amazing tools to support the FbF implementation process

Virtual spaces are important for learning and effective implementation of anticipatory action. The participants learned from each other about online tools and interaction and agreed that what they enjoy most about anticipation is putting science into practice, learning, capacity strengthening, interdisciplinary collaboration, visualization of facts and derive interlinkages between them, reading books about science and exchange with the community.



**Facilitator:**  
Bettina Koelle  
RCCC

“

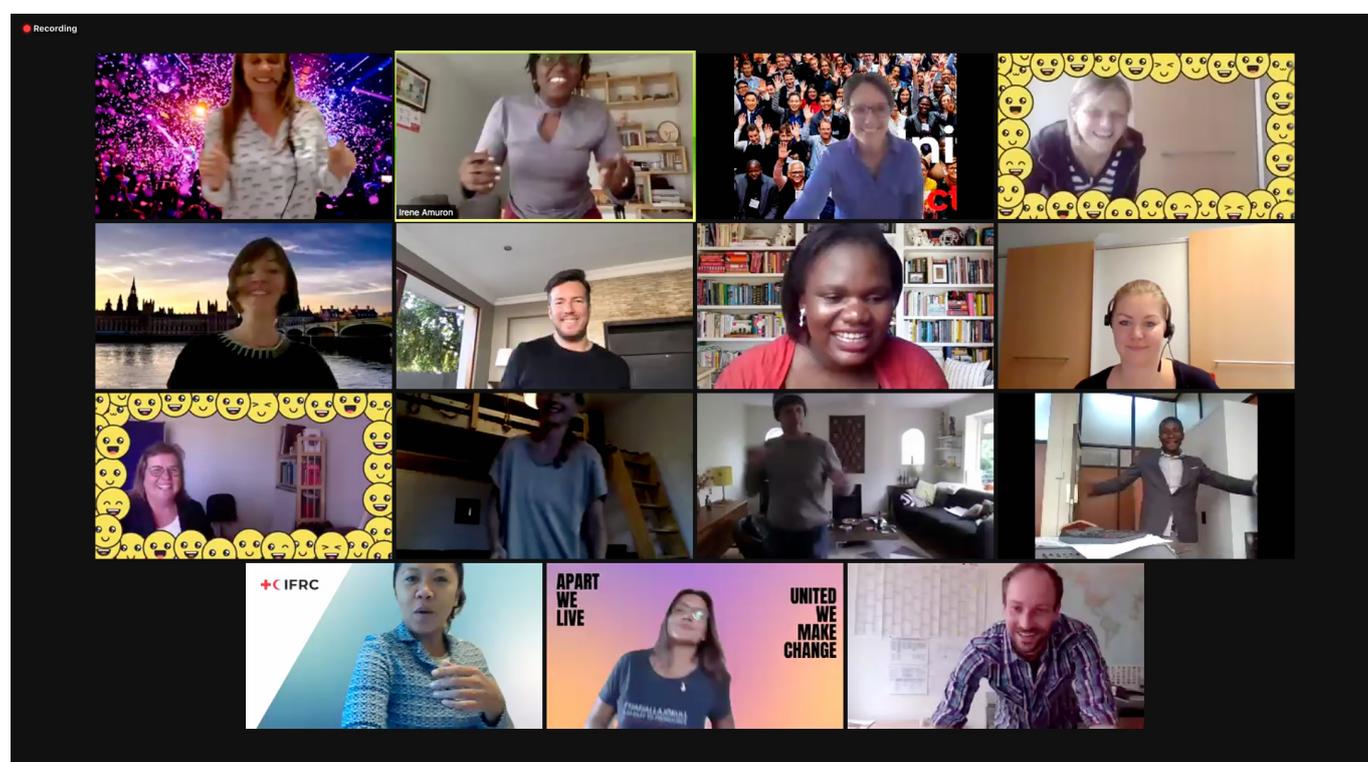
Short turn taking is very important if you have a virtual event – the most interesting time is in the first 2 minutes – attention span goes down after that but if something new happens you can re-engage. Can we have shorter segments so that it feels more exciting to be part of the event?

Bettina Koelle, Senior Learning Specialist, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

”

# Closing Session

→ As the third virtual Africa Dialogue Platform came to an end, it was agreed that especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, anticipatory humanitarian action became a non-negotiable approach. It is a fundamental opportunity and necessity at the same time and must be achieved through partnership and engaging with each other. It became clear over the course of the three-day conference, that important progress was made in anticipating drought, conflict, and displacement. It is always a highlight to hear and learn from everyone who participated and made this Dialogue Platform a huge success, even in virtual form. The Anticipation Hub will be soft launched on November 19 as the space to continue the exchange, collaboration, sharing news and learning.



# LINKS TO DOCUMENTS

## Presentations, photos and information from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa Dialogue Platform On Anticipatory Humanitarian Action – Virtual Edition

Click the icons to visit the websites.

### Photos



<https://flic.kr/s/aHsmVAbsZQ>

### Presentations



<https://live.anticipation-hub.org/africa-dialogue-platform>

For more information about FbF projects and the setting up of an FbF project, please visit the Anticipation Hub website and the FbF online manual:

### Anticipation Hub



<https://www.anticipation-hub.org/>

### FbF Manual



<https://manual.forecast-based-financing.org/>

**Publisher**

Deutsches Rotes Kreuz e.V.

German Red Cross National Headquarters  
International Cooperation Department

Carstennstraße 58  
12205 Berlin, Germany

[www.drk.de](http://www.drk.de)

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**Layout and typesetting**

STÜRMER & DRÄNGER GmbH  
[www.stuermer-draenger.de](http://www.stuermer-draenger.de)

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