

HIGH-LEVEL MEETING AT EXPO 2020 DUBAI

MOVING FROM CLIMATE CRISIS RESPONSE TO RISK MANAGEMENT

SPACE TECHNOLOGIES FOR ANTICIPATORY HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Concept Note

BACKGROUND

Today, climate-driven natural hazard disasters occur nearly five times as often as 40 years ago, killing more than 410 000 people over the past ten years. The number of people requiring lifesaving assistance reached an unprecedented 238 million in 2021¹. As emergencies multiply at a much faster pace than humanitarian funding can be made available, the humanitarian community needs to learn to not only respond to humanitarian crises once they occur – but to anticipate them.

Anticipatory humanitarian action - intended as pre-planned early actions where funding can be disbursed quickly before a crisis takes place and to help mitigate its impact - can help bolster the resilience of communities faced with increasing climate extremes. Innovative tools for preparedness and early response, notably those based on satellite data analysis and forecasting, are essential in this endeavor and can help save lives and lower the cost of responding to humanitarian disasters.

Several countries, civil society organizations and UN agencies have highlighted the benefits and opportunities of anticipatory humanitarian action on several occasions. On 21 October 2020, the Stockholm High-Level Meeting on Addressing the Humanitarian Impact of Climate Change was co-hosted by the Swedish Government, UNDRR and WFP in collaboration with the Swedish Red Cross. A follow-up meeting, Act II, was held on 3 June 2021, focusing on disaster displacement and

anticipatory financing. On 9 September, OCHA, Germany and the United Kingdom organized a high-level meeting on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action and in November. The COP26 will provide another opportunity to demonstrate how these approaches support climate change adaptation and help to reduce loss, damage, and human suffering. In a world where humanitarian needs and resources do not match, there is a growing momentum for anticipatory humanitarian action.

EXPO 2020 DUBAI

Expo 2020 Dubai is a catalyst for bringing the world together to discuss global challenges and to coordinate initiatives with multiple partners for a more efficient solutions. It provides an opportunity to bring attention to pressing issues while engaging a broad range of stakeholders from various fields – identifying synergies and connecting the dots through innovation and science. During Expo's space week in October 2021, the Embassy of Sweden, the European Union, World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) would like to productively explore new frontiers when moving from disaster response to risk management, including earth observation technologies for anticipatory humanitarian action. A joint high-level event on the topic will take place on Saturday 23 October 2021 at the Swedish Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, titled "Moving from

climate crisis to risk management - space technologies for anticipatory humanitarian action”.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the event are to strengthen the awareness of and to promote innovative solutions to systematically anticipate climatic shocks, which will allow for a more effective and dignified humanitarian response. This event will advance this agenda by aiming to:

1. Raise awareness about the rising human and economic cost of increasing climate extremes and shocks, and advocate for the need to take early action and invest in anticipatory financing by focusing on key learnings from anticipatory humanitarian action initiatives undertaken in the Horn of Africa and beyond.
2. Demonstrate the impact of investments into more forward-looking programs that help mitigate and prevent predictable emergencies, encouraging public but also private partners to finance and strengthen programs in humanitarian crisis settings.
3. Discuss the opportunities and challenges of better

leveraging the networks and technologies of space-based earth observation for risk-informed anticipatory and early humanitarian action. Identify ways to make observation technologies more useful for humanitarians on the ground, overcoming the disconnect between technology/data providers and the humanitarians who can act on the data.

4. Identify opportunities for supporting projects and initiatives to ensure future growth in the earth observation field to address humanitarian needs on the ground. Ultimately, these approaches should be embedded across policies and practice as the norm rather than the exception.

DATE AND VENUE

11.00 a.m. – 1.15 p.m. on Saturday 23 October 2021, the Swedish Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai.

REGISTRATION

For information about virtual or in-person attendance please email events.abu-dhabi@gov.se stating “AHA event” in the subject field (limited tickets available).

