



Terms of reference

Africa FbF Coordination Cell Group

Introduction

Every year, Africa is affected by dozens of various extreme events and disasters such as floods, droughts, related food insecurity and malnutrition, displacement, conflict, pest infestation and diseases and epidemics which in some instances occurs concurrently. In 2019 and 2020, most of the regions of Southern Africa, Central, Sahel and Eastern Africa were affected by drought, floods, Tropical Storms and cyclones, pests and diseases. Tropical Cyclone Idai and Kenneth in Mozambique, displaced hundreds of thousands of people and destroyed thousands of crop acreage that was almost ready for harvesting. The increasing number of extreme events happening in the region has resulted in increasing numbers of people impacted and property affected. This has resulted in more emergency appeals and Humanitarian Response Plans which is already overwhelming governments and the donor communities.

The above background clearly demonstrates the need for a paradigm shift from just response to anticipatory early action to prevent where possible losses of lives and property and reduce risk. There is a great need to step up disaster preparedness and early action instead of waiting for the next crisis to hit. In Africa, there has been great efforts by Regional Bodies, governments, and organisations to issue early warning information and alerts to relevant government departments, concerned organizations and the citizenry. However, there has been very little effort to facilitate the translation of this warnings to early actions. Research shows that investing in disaster preparedness and early action is worth it both in terms of human lives saved and economic returns. Natural disasters already cost hundreds of billions of dollars a year, with a 2-degree Celsius increase in temperature according to one estimate, damages for climate change could reach over USD 69 Million by 2100. An analysis titled 'Cost of Doing Nothing' by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in September 2019 highlights that if no urgent action is taken now, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance annually due to the climate crisis could double by 2050. IFRC Strategy 2030 further highlights that climate and environmental crisis is one of the key challenges affecting our world today. Strategy 2030 therefore provides clear guidance and directions for National Societies to work towards integrating climate risk management – including adaptation and mitigation – across all of our programmes, operations and advocacy, and adopt better environmental management in our approaches to addressing exposure and vulnerability.

In line with the commitment of the RCRC Movement – Movement Ambitions to Address Climate Crisis - to scale up efforts to anticipate extreme weather events ahead of their impacts, **The Africa Forecast based Financing (FbF) Coordination Cell Group** is being established to help the RCRC Movement in this region to systematically coordinate efforts and actions around the Early Warning Early Action, facilitate dialogue, joint learning and exchanges between the National Societies, Partner National Societies (PNS) and other partners in the area of anticipatory action and support advocacy and policy efforts in streamlining Early Warning and Early Action into the government programmes, policies and strategies. The Coordination cell will comprise of African National Society FbF focal points, IFRC cluster and Country Cluster FbF focal points, RC/RC Climate Centre Regional experts, and In-Country PNS colleagues.

Purpose

The main purpose of the Coordination Cell is to provide a platform for coordination, promote dialogue, joint learning and exchanges among the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement on FbF mechanism



implementation, Early Action Protocol development, ongoing initiatives and developments on Anticipatory Action at the Region, lesson learnt, best practices, Anticipatory Action Advocacy, current developments and future trends within the various countries and the regions in relation to mainstreaming Anticipatory Action into RCRC programmes in the region – The list of topics is not exhaustive and other initiatives will be welcomed for discussions. The group will also seek to provide technical support to sister National Societies in the field of forecast based financing, anticipatory approaches and advocacy efforts with Regional bodies and institutions. Non RCRC Actors will be invited into the group occasionally as guest speakers to specific sessions to support with Cross Organizational learning.

This Regional Coordination cell will seek to engage and contribute actively to the global FbF coordination group to provide direction and continuity in the themes and topics of discussions. It will be instrumental in not only shaping the reality on the ground but also the global discourse on Disaster Risk Financing (DRF) and Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) through sharing of its experiences, lessons learnt, challenges, gaps and opportunities in implementing FbF in the region.

Key Pillars of the Coordination Cell

It is proposed to have the following key pillars to support the main objective of the group:

1. Information sharing and exchanges on Anticipatory Action
2. Dialogue and Peer learning
3. Advocacy
4. Technical Support & Capacity Building

Convener of the Task Team

The IFRC Regional Office with support from the cluster and Country Cluster Offices shall convene the meeting in consultation with the members of the group. The targeted audience of the group will include IFRC Africa Regional Office, IFRC FbF Cluster Focal points, African National Societies FbF Focal points (Bilingual), Supporting Partner National Societies and Red Cross Climate Centre representatives in Africa.

Proposed meeting venue and dates

The Coordination Cell will meet online on a quarterly basis using the Team (Zoom will be a second alternative) platform. The proposed dates of the monthly meeting would be the Fourth Thursday of the Quarter and the duration of the meeting is 60-90 Minutes maximum.

Proposed activities

- Share Anticipatory Action information and updates on FbF/FbA related work happening in the region – EAP Development, Monitoring and Evaluation reviews and reports, collaborations
- Presentations by technical experts on the latest tools on the FbF mechanism, new technologies and skills available to help National Societies to systematically implement FbF/FbA and intergrate FbF into Disaster Risk Management
- Peer learning and exchanges amongst the National Societies – National Societies present their work and ongoing developments related to the Anticipatory Action
- Capacity Building on various concepts of the FbF/FbA though webinars and training (Online & Physical)
- Prepare, contribute and participate to advocacy pieces, Conference sessions and Regional Dialogues on Anticipatory Action.