

## How the Anticipation Hub and REAP relate and collaborate

**Background:** Given the similar thematic focus areas of the Anticipation Hub and REAP; the fact they are fairly new initiatives; and both having strong links to the Red Cross and Red Crescent Network, a number of people have asked how they relate and collaborate. This short paper sets out to answer that question.

The **Anticipation Hub** is a knowledge and exchange platform that provides practitioners, scientists and policymakers access to evidence-based learning resources, tools and expertise to collectively achieve successful anticipatory action in practice and protect communities at-risk ahead of disasters. The platform brings together 69+ partners across the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, universities, research institutes, NGOs, UN agencies, governments, and network initiatives. It is hosted by the German Red Cross in cooperation with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre with funding support from Germany's Federal Foreign Office.

The principal audience of the hub is practitioners, as well as scientists and policymakers, mostly from the humanitarian community and its main strategic priorities are:

- Learning, innovation and exchange;
- Guidance and support;
- Policy and advocacy.

Launched at the UN Climate Action Summit (UNCAS) in September 2019 by 15 convening countries and 23 partners, the **Risk-informed Early Action Partnership** (REAP) brings together an unprecedented range of stakeholders across the climate, humanitarian, and development communities with the aim of making 1 billion people safer from disaster by 2025 by taking risk-informed early action to scale. The Secretariat for the partnership is hosted by IFRC in Geneva and is funded by the UK Government. Its 4 targets are outlined below and these help to galvanise commitments and action on this agenda – particularly from affected and donor countries:

- 50 countries have reviewed and integrated their crisis/disaster risk management and climate adaptation laws, policies and/or plans to ensure that they reduce climate change impacts and exposure on people and the environment.
- 1 billion more people are covered by financing and delivery mechanisms connected to effective early action plans, ensuring they can act ahead of predicted disasters and crises.
- \$500 million invested in early warning system infrastructure and institutions to target early action in 'last/first mile' communities, building on existing initiatives.
- 1 billion more people are covered by new or improved early warning systems, including heatwave early warning, connected to longer-term risk management systems and supported by public awareness campaigns.

**Similarities between the initiatives:**

As can be seen, both REAP and the Anticipation Hub have a common interest in and focus on early and anticipatory approaches that can help to mitigate the impact of disasters – particularly those caused by climate-related hazards. Therefore, REAP as a partnership would wish to draw on the expertise of the Anticipation Hub and to share good practice with its partners – particularly those from the climate and development communities who may not already have access to such information and good practice. Similarly, the Anticipation Hub may wish to leverage REAP as a platform from which to make policy recommendations to countries and donors involved in the partnership. Both initiatives also organise Working Groups that focus on different aspects of anticipatory and early action. Therefore, close coordination and alignment will be crucial in the months and years to come to ensure synergy and to avoid duplication.

**Key differences and opportunities for complementarity:**

Aside from the points noted above, however, there are some significant differences between the initiatives. The Anticipation Hub is a knowledge resource and exchange platform to enable more evidence-based anticipatory action on the ground, supporting the wider humanitarian sector. The Hub compiles and shares good practice from science, policy and practice to help actors do more anticipatory humanitarian action, do it better and do it together. It includes features like a global map of projects, training materials and advocacy key messages on anticipatory action, complemented by knowledge generated through REAP activities and other initiatives. By showcasing success stories and sharing governments' experiences of mainstreaming in practice, the Hub can stimulate exchange and learning that inspires other governments and donors to embed anticipatory action in their policies and programmes.

As a partnership, however, REAP by its very nature has a less defined identity and needs to ensure consensus of its partners over its strategic direction. Whilst REAP's Secretariat is hosted by the IFRC, IFRC is but one of its 40 or so partners and has an equal say on these matters. REAP convenes key stakeholders at the global level and creates a space in which partners and aligned organizations will use the ambitious targets to mobilise commitments and inspire action at scale. Therefore, there is much opportunity for the initiatives to work together in concert, with REAP driving political interest and momentum (and attracting the accompanying resources) at the global level with a particular focus on countries, with the Anticipation Hub helping to turn that interest and momentum into practical action and progress on the ground. Likewise, the good practice, research and evidence that is generated by the Anticipation Hub and its partners on the ground can be used to influence policy and stakeholders at the global level. It should be a symbiotic relationship.

**Coordination Efforts:**

As such, the Anticipation Hub and the REAP Secretariat team have committed to monthly coordination meetings to exchange information, align activities and agree on common priorities. Anticipation Hub team members will also attend the monthly REAP partnership call and Working Group meetings as appropriate, whilst REAP Secretariat staff will attend Anticipation Hub Advisory Board and Working Group meetings whenever relevant.