



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Food  
Programme



OCHA

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## Anticipatory Action Task Force (AATF) Terms of Reference

### Strategic vision

Acting prior to a predictable hazard in order to safeguard lives and livelihoods, to reduce human suffering and losses and damages, is a faster, more efficient and more dignified response. In recent years, anticipatory action has gained significant momentum and there is a growing consensus that given the increasing availability of risk and forecasting information, it is unacceptable to continue to wait for hazards to impact communities instead of acting before humanitarian needs manifest. National early warning systems have been capacitated through risk analysis, forecasts, and pre-agreed financing to trigger anticipatory actions and protect people ahead of a shock. To address the increasing number and severity of extreme weather events, which are exacerbated by climate change, as well as non-natural hazards, government, humanitarian and development organizations need to support a transition from repetitive crisis response to forward-looking and preventive risk management.

### Mission statement

*The mission of the Anticipatory Action Task Force (AATF) is to promote the use of anticipatory humanitarian action to risks.*

To date, this approach is being developed in over 60 countries by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)<sup>1</sup>, Start Network, The UN World Food Programme (WFP), The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). These initiatives, supported by generous support from key donors, contribute to the broader efforts of the humanitarian, development and climate communities to scale-up and mainstream anticipatory approaches within national governmental disaster risk management frameworks and within humanitarian/development systems.

To foster an environment for more in-depth discussions around common challenges facing the mainstreaming and scale-up of anticipatory action, in September 2018, core AATF members came together (FAO, IFRC, OCHA, START Network, WFP) and formed the informal Anticipatory Action Task Force (AATF). The role of the AATF is to provide technical expertise, knowledge and learning and to promote partnerships to ensure country-level needs and best practises are shaping the anticipatory-action agenda at the global level.

The AATF will:

- Promote the scale-up of collective anticipatory action efforts;
- Provide technical support to collective pilots/inter-agency efforts;
- Generate evidence on anticipatory action and disseminate lessons learned;
- Coordinate and engage in joint advocacy and resource mobilization for anticipatory action;

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<sup>1</sup> IFRC includes its member National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies and reference centers such as the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre.



- Further the intellectual underpinning of anticipatory action, including guidance on definitions and standards;
- Promote synergies with global initiatives<sup>2</sup> to support country needs.

## Priorities

**Scaling up anticipatory action** - Supporting the development, mobilization and coordination of flexible-finance and disaster risk-financing instruments at global, regional and country levels. This is to ensure that such instruments are complementing an integrated risk management approach.

**Interagency technical support and coordination** - Providing interagency technical support and guidance to ensure forecasts, predictive analytics, risk analysis and early warning systems are mainstreamed into national disaster management plans. Utilizing common analytical frameworks for cross-hazard, cross-country monitoring analysis and evaluations.

**Collective learning and partnerships** - Supporting the strengthening of the evidence base for anticipatory action. Promoting collective learning on the effectiveness of different types of approaches in support of the policy underpinnings needed for anticipatory actions. Promoting cross-sectoral partnerships between academic, humanitarian, development and private sectors.

## Activities

**Coordination and networking** - Facilitate partnerships and dialogue at global, regional and national levels and foster collaboration between the EA/AA scientific, government, humanitarian and development communities;

**Technical advisory support** - Support global, regional and in-country coordination of the development of anticipatory action approaches, planning, implementation, M&E and training;

**Advance humanitarian and development policy** - Support integration of anticipatory action perspectives and issues into development and humanitarian decision-making and policies;

**Training and learning** - Support a repository of standards, guidelines, tools and relevant training materials, and facilitating their dissemination among partners;

**Advocacy** - Raise awareness about the importance of integrating anticipatory action in humanitarian response (specifically risk analysis, risk monitoring, forecasts, early action planning, readiness, delivery, training and financing) to different audiences from global to local levels.

## Participation

The AATF is an informal group, whose participation consists of: FAO, IFRC, OCHA, START Network and WFP. AATF membership will be regularly reviewed. Additional and on-demand activities for exchange and consultations may be organized at the request of other organizations interested in facilitating the joint expansion of anticipatory action. The AATF aims to broaden the participation and inclusion to other interested organisations in our discussions through thematic meetings and webinars. Relevant technical experts are invited to join FOREWARN which supports anticipatory action work on the ground. A knowledge and exchange platform, the Anticipation Hub will support events, promote activities and publish regular updates from the AATF. The AATF meets on a monthly basis through web-based calls and, if possible, face-to-face meetings every 6 months. AATF members can function as meeting chairpersons or represent the AATF at events, decided on a case-by-case basis depending on the topic and availability.

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<sup>2</sup> The AA FTF works closely with global initiatives such as the Risk-Informed Early Action Partnership (REAP), Anticipation Hub, FOREWARN and the Crisis Lookout Coalition.