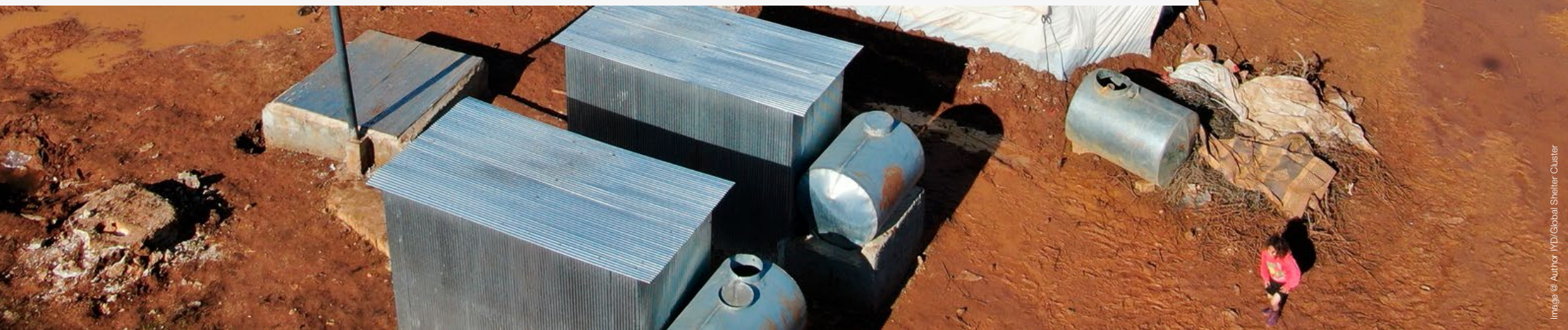




## **Weather and Climate Information Services (WISER) Middle East and North Africa (MENA): Istibak**

Reaching the First Mile: Anticipatory Climate Action  
in Complex Humanitarian Settings in MENA



## The MENA region in context

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is one of the most conflict-affected regions in the world and among the most vulnerable to climate change. As well as being extremely exposed to hazards such as floods, storms, heat waves, droughts, and wildfires, since the 1980s, the number of natural hazard related disasters in the region has almost tripled compared to the rest of the world. As our climate continues to change, in the MENA region this threatens to further stress existing vulnerabilities as climate hazards become more frequent.

Adopting anticipatory action (AA) approaches as part of national disaster risk management systems is therefore crucial. However, refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) are often left out of existing efforts.



A Syrian Arab Red Crescent volunteer visits villages affected by wildfires.

## How WISER MENA Istibak will support

Weather and Climate Information Services (WISER) Istibak is a 2-year regional project aimed at strengthening climate resilience of IDPs, refugee populations, and host communities in Iraq, Yemen, and Syria, by enhancing and promoting the co-production of forecast-based early action with local, national, and regional coordination mechanisms.

Our goal is that refugee and IDP camps and hosting areas will experience fewer negative impacts from extreme weather and climate events due to more sustainable access and use of weather services, climate information, and anticipatory action taken by humanitarian organisations.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

**Istibak is Arabic for “Anticipate.”**

**By the end of 2022,  
MENA hosted  
2.4 million refugees,  
12.6 million IDPs,  
and 251,800  
asylum seekers.**

**Over 10 million IDPs  
in the MENA region  
are highly vulnerable  
to the impacts of  
climate change.**

Heavy seasonal rains and deadly floods hit Yemen in 2020.

Image @ ICRC/BRC

Image @ Syrian Arab Red Crescent

## Our objectives

WISER MENA Istibak aims to ensure a greater use of weather and climate information services (WCIS) in informing anticipatory action planning for IDPs, refugee populations, and host communities – adapted to the regions' and/or countries' context in the MENA region. It will do this through:

- 1. Improved access to WISER weather and climate information services** amongst humanitarian agencies and users at regional, national, and community level
- 2. Increased awareness of the value of using weather and climate information** in decision making amongst local, national, and regional disaster risk management coordination mechanisms. This will lead to:

**Practice.** Strengthened co-production between producers, intermediaries, and users of WCIS to improve impact-based forecasting anticipatory action planning.



**Exchange and advocacy.** Increased collaboration, advocacy, and learning through regional and national Anticipatory Action Communities of Practice in collaboration with the Anticipation Hub.



**Learning.** Improved capacity and knowledge management to support better understanding and use of weather and climate services.



## Our approach

**Practice.** Establish a baseline on opportunities and barriers on anticipatory action and early warning systems to create hazard and impact maps. This will also include developing or improving early action protocols/anticipatory action protocols.



**Exchange and advocacy.** These activities work towards supporting the regional Community of Practice on Anticipatory Action as a key forum for exchange, learning, and strengthening collaboration for multi-agency action. This includes organising dialogue platforms and hosting 'Community Conversations,' and developing key messages and policy briefs to advocate for anticipatory action in MENA.



**Learning.** Deliver activities aimed at advancing learning to scale-up anticipatory action planning. This includes research, training materials and technical briefs, and a practical guide on anticipatory action in complex humanitarian settings. It aims to document, disseminate, and support the uptake of lessons learnt throughout 'Practice' and 'Exchange & Advocacy.'



Mental health support teaching children tools for dealing with their emotions, after the earthquake in Syria.

## Contact information



**Nilakshi Banerjee**

British Red Cross Climate Resilience  
Programme Manager for WISER MENA

**Email: [NilakshiBanerjee@redcross.org.uk](mailto:NilakshiBanerjee@redcross.org.uk)**



The British Red Cross Society, incorporated by Royal Charter 1908, is a charity registered in England and Wales (220949), Scotland (SC037738), Isle of Man (0752), Jersey (430). BRC24-100.

In partnership with:



Donors:

