



2nd National Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action: Bangladesh 2023

Scaling-up Anticipatory Humanitarian Action for Sustainable Development

26-27 September 2023

Concept Note

The 2nd National Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action will take place in September 2023. This will be an in-person conference in Dhaka, Bangladesh involving participants from across the country. This year's event is being held under the theme 'Inspire, Unite, Promote: Scaling up Anticipatory Humanitarian Action for Sustainable Growth'.

The 2nd National Dialogue Platform is hosted by Anticipatory Action Technical Working Group in collaboration with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), Government of Bangladesh and the National Taskforce on Anticipatory Action and Technical Working Group which includes various agencies engaged in scaling up Anticipatory Action in Bangladesh.

The 2nd National Dialogue Platform is designed to achieve three main objectives: inspire, unite, and promote. The platform, on its second edition, aims to create a space for the government of Bangladesh and the community of practice of Anticipatory Humanitarian Action to reflect on lessons from experience, agree on better ways of working in stronger collaboration, as well as to define a Road Map with the strategy and commitments of the Government of Bangladesh to accelerate a system-wide shift towards an anticipatory approach to disasters.

Inspire: The platform will showcase success stories and best practices in anticipatory action for reducing risks and building resilience in communities. It also features the stories of individuals and organizations that have overcome challenges in implementing anticipatory action, demonstrating that it is possible to make a difference.

Unite: The platform will encourage synergies and collaboration among organizations and individuals working in the field of anticipatory action. Through the platform, users will be

able to identify potential partners, share their expertise and resources, and develop joint initiatives.

Promote: The platform will serve as a tool for promoting the adoption of anticipatory approaches through resources, guidelines, and case studies to support the integration of anticipatory action into policies, plans and programs.

The 2nd National Dialogue Platform feeds from and into the regional and global efforts to drive Anticipatory Humanitarian Action forward and further build upon the vast accumulated experience of the actors in Bangladesh. The Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform was last called on Kathmandu, Nepal on 13-15 June 2023, and the Global Dialogue Platform will be held in Berlin, Germany on 9-13 October. On these events Bangladesh demonstrated a strong commitment and willingness to drive with practice the mainstreaming of the AA approach.

Background

Bangladesh is one of the countries most affected by extreme weather events, ranking 7th globally, and is among the top 10 countries on the Climate Risk Index (CRI). The country is exposed to various natural hazards and extreme weather events, such as floods, cyclone, heatwave, flash floods, etc. resulting in a negative impact on the people's resilience and making them vulnerable to poverty. Bangladesh ranks 129th in the Human Development Report 2021-22, and people in the country have limited access to early warning and risk information.

Anticipatory Action is a growing concept that aims to predict disasters with community and/or science-based weather forecasting systems as well as to prevent and/or mitigate human suffering and losses with actions taken prior to impacts. It is becoming popular among humanitarian agencies, the Red Cross Red Crescent movement, the UN system, and national institutions worldwide, including in Bangladesh. AA is being implemented in numerous countries globally, and about 20 humanitarian organizations are applying AA concepts in Bangladesh through their activities.

A Technical Working Group on Anticipatory Action was formed in 2018 to promote coordination, collaboration, and partnership with stakeholders and advocate for AA with the Government of Bangladesh. In 2019, the Government of Bangladesh included Forecast-Based Financing/Action¹ in its Standard Order on Disaster, and the National taskforce on Anticipatory Action was formed under the leadership of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR). The Technical Working Group is providing secretarial support to the National Anticipatory Action Taskforce to mainstream the work into the government system.

¹ Forecast-Based Financing/Action (FBF/A) and Anticipatory Action (AA) are mutually exchangeable concepts and their use only vary between organizations without theoretical or practical differences.

Commitments from the 1st National Dialogue Platform

Under the leadership of Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, the Red Cross Red Crescent, CARE Bangladesh, Start Fund Bangladesh, and WFP jointly organised the 1st National Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action in 2019 for scaling-up, strengthening and mainstreaming Anticipatory Action initiatives within the Government framework, as well as the humanitarian agencies.

The commitments of the 1st National Dialogue Platform were:

- To promote and optimize the concept and application of “Anticipation instead of Reaction”.
- Work in collaboration with all partners and engage with Government (different line ministries) to explore more opportunities for Forecast based Actions or in anticipation to humanitarian crisis.
- Work towards establishment of standardized or common triggers and early actions to be done based on extreme weather forecasts or in anticipation of a humanitarian crisis.
- Promote evidence-based research on the Forecast based Actions or in anticipation to humanitarian crisis.
- Work together with the Government to establish a heat-health early warning early action system to provide information to vulnerable people during a heatwave.
- Establish a FbF/FbA Forum or Practitioner Network with the Leadership of the Government of Bangladesh and promote the localization of FbF/FbA

2nd National Anticipatory Action Dialogue Platform

The 2nd National Dialogue Platform will be organized in Bangladesh in September 2023 to exchange progress and challenges among the government and other key humanitarian actors of Anticipatory Action, facilitate partnerships/coordination mechanisms, promote the development and mainstreaming of a national Anticipatory Action framework sensitive to localised Early Warning Systems, to strengthen the institutionalization of Anticipatory Action.

MODALITY

The National Dialogue Platform is organised by Anticipatory Action Technical Working Group in collaboration with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. The National Dialogue Platform will be a participatory event and will make use of ignite sessions, case studies, research findings, panel discussions, and discuss on way forward.

PARTICIPANTS

- The event will have around 200 participants.
- National and regional line agencies will be present to ensure government mandates and national policies align with effective climate preparedness.

- Representatives from academia and scientific/research institutions will provide technical knowledge on preparedness, early action, and early response.
- Selected partners from Local Government Units will also participate.
- Community engagement will provide valuable local perspectives and insights.

THEMATIC FOCUS AREAS

Objective	Theme
Inspire: The platform will showcase success stories and best practices in anticipatory action for reducing risks and building resilience in communities.	- Showcase the research and study - Risk and vulnerability Analysis - Hazard Monitoring and Thresholds/Trigger/ Localize Trigger - Human Stories - Lesson Learned - IEC Materials
Unite: The platform will encourage synergies and collaboration among organizations and individuals working in the field of anticipatory action.	- Impact based Forecast - Geography and People Targeting - Last mile early warning dissemination/Common Messaging/Common Alerting Protocol - Strengthening AA working group/Taskforce/ Inter Ministerial Coordination/ Local Level Coordination/ DMC/ Private Sector - Prioritization of AA/plan/ strategy/ Protocol - Do no harm/ Accountability / - Youth
Promote: The platform will serve as a tool for promoting the adoption of anticipatory approaches through resources, guidelines, and case studies to support the integration of anticipatory action into policies, plans and programs.	- Social safety net/ Shock Responsive Social Protection - Disaster Risk and Climate Change Nexus - Preparedness and Contingency Plan - Inclusivity (Age, Gender, and Disability) - Disaster Risk Financing/ Insurance - Local Organization Capacity Exchange and strengthening governance. - Pool Funding - Quality and standard AA package

More details on the conference will be shared with the programme