



Working Group on Earth Observations: Terms of Reference

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Background

These terms of reference outline the tasks involved for the Working Group (WG) on Earth Observations (EO) to provide support and guidance to the Anticipation Hub on opportunities and gaps in the field of EO and anticipatory action. The work will be carried out in the overall context of the work of the Anticipation Hub. The Hub is an integrated program of the IFRC, German Red Cross, and Red Cross and Red Crescent Climate Centre.

Objectives

The major objectives of the WG will include:

1. Bolster the definition and understanding of anticipatory action, and identify key integration points for EO;
2. Act as a focal point to identify opportunities for potential demonstration projects and share experiences and materials from our members that will demonstrate the value and function of EO-integrated anticipatory action on the Anticipation Hub's online resources;
3. Develop opportunities to share progress and gain feedback from diverse audiences, including the IFRC Regional Dialogue Platforms and Global Dialogue Platform; and
4. Support other Anticipation Hub activities as they arise.

Membership

The WG will consist of a number of experts in EO and in anticipatory action, and will be supported by the Anticipation Hub. The period of engagement and membership will be determined on a voluntary basis and by the types of skills or expertise needed to deliver the developed Project Plans efficiently and effectively.



Our Approach

This Working Group will leverage the work of existing international organizations and partners to establish opportunities that show the value and function of EO in anticipatory action. Particular attention will be made to ensure that there is diversity of users and applications. For example, we will need to reflect diversity in geographies, thematic areas, and user types, among other considerations.

The Working Group will set out to:

1. Define in detail the vision, goals and principles, and expected outcomes of the Working Group projects;
2. Hold regular Working Group meetings on a bi-monthly basis on topics relevant to EO4AA as suggested by Working Group chairs and members;
3. Develop project plans, including the phasing of activities, priorities and tasks and establish sub-groups as needed to fulfill the deliverables set out in the project plans; and
4. Clarify and implement connections between other Anticipation Hub Working Groups in coordination with the Anticipation Hub;
5. Share any results and lessons learnt during Global/Regional Dialogue Platforms and on the Anticipation Hub website.

The Working Group should be structured to reflect opportunities including:

- Highlight opportunities from EO community and highlighting needs of humanitarian and other early action communities
- Facilitate coordination between needs and offers together (e.g., matchmaking between humanitarian organisations and EO community)

Timeline and Reporting

The deliverables, timelines and milestones will be captured in specific projects identified by the Working Group.