

Africa Dialogue Platform 2021

Our message to the world



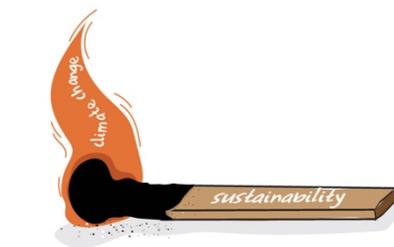
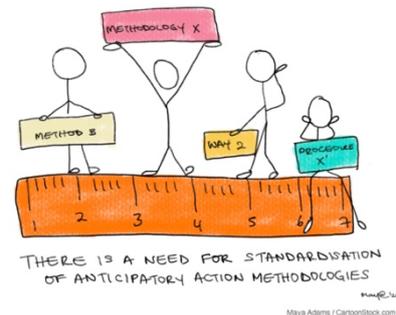
Africa has borne the brunt of impacts of climate change and other hazards. Millions have been affected – lives lost, livelihoods destroyed and a future uncertain. It is not too late to change the tide. Lots of efforts and investments have been injected into adaptation and mitigation of climate change to secure the future for today and tomorrow's generations. While we struggle and explore solutions to the current challenges, we are faced with all sorts of risks from every angle – floods, droughts, storms, locust, on one hand and a pandemic on another. The arrival of Covid has reminded us that we need to always anticipate, prepare and respond to multiple risks at any one time.



For the past 3 days, we have convened at the 4th Africa Dialogue Platform to discuss how to scale up and sustain effective Anticipatory Action in Africa. With 290 participants, we have shared our successes, challenges, what is working and what we need to improve. We have had frank conversations on the challenges we face and what we need to do to achieve our vision of Anticipatory Action at scale in Africa.

What we need to do URGENTLY

- 1. Build capacity in Africa for research and science to support Anticipatory Action.** While we recognize the need for support from the global North towards bridging the research and science gap, we must invest in building the science and research capacities in African Institutions (National Met and Hydrological Services, Universities and Research institutions).
- 2. Reach scale by jointly advocating for more/ aligned financing and resources** towards both the development of the systems needed to implement anticipatory actions ahead of forecasted impacts and shocks- as well as for the implementation of anticipatory actions themselves. We have seen broad consensus amongst our participants around the importance of investing in generating the evidence needed to do this.
- 3. Work with sustainability in mind.** This includes investing in involvement of governments and local Hydro Met agencies. We have learned that we need to advocate for embedding Anticipatory Action in national frameworks and policies that will provide a foundation for government to engage. Extra efforts are needed to bring governments on board to steer the scale and sustainability of Anticipatory Action.
- 4. Build a movement for Anticipatory Action.** Anticipatory Action is not about a small group of people who are passionate about AA. Rather it should be a movement of people including communities to ensure we have champions across board – from local to global.



5. **Invest in honest and sincere coordination at local, regional and global levels** and strive to harmonize methodologies for Anticipatory Action across the various partners and organizations.
6. **Explore various anticipatory actions beyond cash.** While it is undeniable that providing Cash and Voucher Assistance ensure dignity of the beneficiaries, we should invest in exploring more actions that can be implemented to avoid or mitigate the impact of predictable hazards.

And so, we are calling for more **partnerships, coordination and collaboration** towards institutionalization of Anticipatory Action in Africa. We want to see Anticipatory Action **embedded in Disaster Risk Reduction**. With this, we speak the same language and reach more people with a wider geographical coverage.

Urgent action needs to be taken together - NOW



Mangena / CartoonStock.com

This is our message to the world from the 4th Africa Dialogue Platform, presented in the final session on 1 July 2021