



Terms of Reference

Working Group on Protection, Gender, and Inclusion in Anticipatory Action

The Anticipation Hub Working Group on Protection, Gender, and Inclusion in Anticipatory Action seeks to accelerate the mainstreaming and integration of protective, gender-transformative, and inclusive approaches in Anticipatory Action. The Working Group will do so by fostering collaboration and community exchange, generating implementation guidance and tools, and strengthening the evidence base and advocacy.

Background

Currently, over 60 countries are implementing anticipatory action approaches. Defined differently by different actors, anticipatory action operates under disparate criteria, timelines, and decision-making processes. Yet, it usually works by using available data and evidence to trigger the release of financial resources for interventions that have been collectively and collaboratively identified and agreed in advance by humanitarian, development, and scientific partners.

There is growing interest in moving from small-scale pilots to anticipatory action at scale. Scaling up means dedicating more funding and resources so that more people can receive assistance and protection ahead of predictable shocks, expanding the geographic coverage and types of shocks and stresses that can be anticipated, as well as the ability and capacity of the system to respond collectively in a coordinated manner. Therefore, scaling up is not about doing just more, it also means doing better.

Namely, effective early warnings and anticipatory action systems can support and strengthen the ability of groups facing potential disasters and crisis to mitigate the impacts, better cope with shocks and stresses, and address any issues of discrimination. Comprehensive analyses of vulnerabilities, risk factors, and coping strategies can be used to inform protective, gender transformative, and inclusive outcomes.

- Anticipatory action is a set of actions taken to prevent or mitigate potential disaster and crises' impacts before a shock or before acute impacts are felt.
- Protection means preventing, mitigating and responding to violence, notably Gender Based Violence (GBV), to keep people safe from harm.
- Gender and diversity is about addressing discrimination and understanding people's different needs, risks, and capacities.
- Inclusion means actively addressing exclusion by meaningfully involving and engaging excluded, disabled, and hard to reach people in our work.

Anticipatory actions should be tailored and prioritised to ensure that we reach all people effectively and in a non-discriminatory and equitable manner. Our work must ensure dignity, access, participation, and safety for all people affected by disasters and crises.

Although there is increasing recognition of the importance of integrating protective, gender-transformative, and inclusive approaches in Anticipatory Action, these are not yet consistently applied and typically lack the capacity, resources and monitoring mechanisms to ensure successful prioritisation and implementation. There is a growing need to further embed those dimensions in Anticipatory Action approaches and build an evidence and advocacy base.

The Working Group therefore aims to facilitate greater technical exchange as well as engage, advocate and disseminate resources, good practices, lessons learned, and solutions on the mainstreaming and integration of Protection, Gender and Inclusion in Anticipatory Action. It also aims to improve coordination between all the actors involved and the instruments set up by government, communities, humanitarian and development actors, at the global, regional, national and local levels. Partners would act in a harmonized way, not necessarily all for the same events or at the same time, but reflecting their specific mandates, relative strengths and capacity.

Objectives and Deliverables

Overall, the Working Group seeks to accelerate the mainstreaming and integration of Protection, Gender and Inclusion in Anticipatory Action, by pursuing the following objectives:

1. Foster collaboration and community exchange;
2. Generate implementation guidance and tools;
3. Strengthen the evidence base and advocacy.

These objectives will be achieved by:

- Fostering structured collaboration and community exchange by bringing together expertise from different actors and sectors through working group meetings and platforms.
- Providing and updating an overview of existing initiatives to mainstream and integrate Protection, Gender and Inclusion in Anticipatory Action.
- Updating and maintaining a resource page on the Anticipation Hub on Protection, Gender and Inclusion to share publications, reports, videos and events (see [here](#))
- Co-creating and jointly (further) developing solutions to drive forward innovation and piloting of mainstreaming and integration of Protection, Gender, and Inclusion in Anticipatory Action.

- Developing, adapting, and implementing guidance, tools and other resources for mainstreaming Protection, Gender and Inclusion, including integrating Gender Based Violence (GBV) risk mitigation and Child Protection to Anticipatory action approaches.
- Connecting needs with solutions by establishing dialogues between solution providers and people affected by disasters and crises, moving more towards implementation and coordination on the ground.
- Contributing to and/or supporting the evidence base for policy advocacy on mainstreaming and integration of Protection, Gender, and Inclusion in Anticipatory Action, especially around GBV risk mitigation and Child Protection.

Membership

The membership includes organisations who are working on mainstreaming and integrating Protection, Gender and Inclusion in Anticipatory Action, or have strong ambitions to do so.

The working group is hosted by the Anticipation Hub and co-chaired by the IFRC, UNFPA and Plan International. Please get in touch with the co-chairs for more information on joining the working group.

Ways of Working, Members' Inputs

The group intends to work together by setting up:

1. Virtual meetings every two months convened by co-chairs and where possible by the core task team members.
2. Updating and maintaining a resource page on the Anticipation Hub on Protection, Gender and Inclusion to share publications, reports, videos and events (see [here](#)).
3. Developing a structured online repository on the Anticipation Hub where members can share documents, tools and resources, loosely organized according to the group's objectives, as well as key documents and information essential to the functioning of the Working Group (e.g. TOR, workplan, contact information).
4. Internal repository (google drive folder) for internal working documents.
5. Ad hoc emails that every member can send to the group distribution list, to share information, seek guidance, or suggest topics for discussion.
6. Ad hoc meetings when necessary to plan for joint events, joint documents, etc.
7. A work plan specifying the joint outputs and knowledge products of the working group (e.g. blogs, events, reports, policy briefs) and highlighting thematic areas that the group would like to promote, support, and engage in its development.